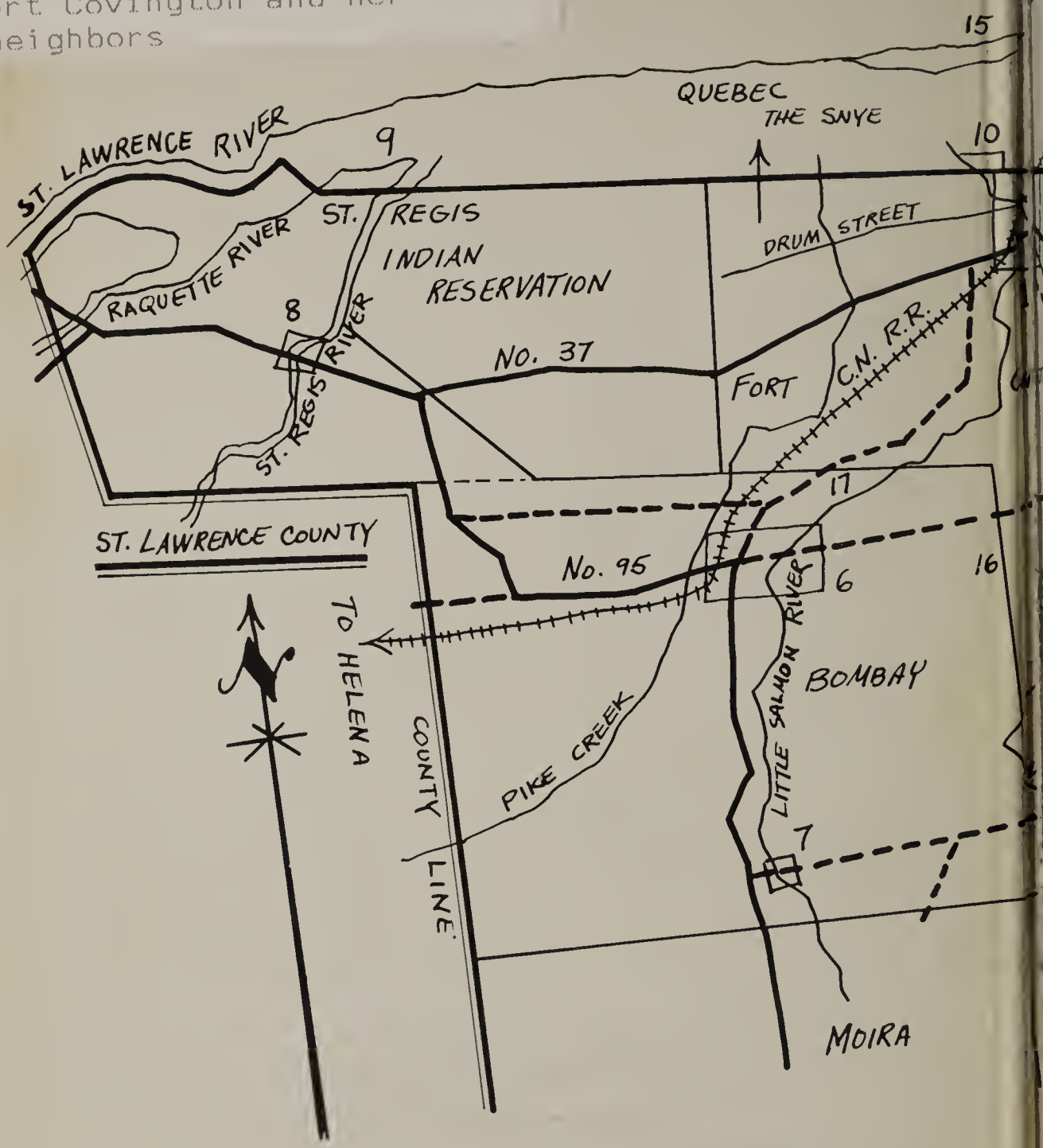


Fort Covington and Her Neighbors

A HISTORY OF THREE TOWNS

HERBERT D. A. DONOVAN

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Fort Covington and her
neighbors



Map of
the towns of
Bombay—Fort Covington—Westville
Franklin County

- LEGEND
- 1. Fort Covington
 - 2. Fort Covington
 - 3. Cooks Corners
 - 4. Westville (C)
 - 5. Westville (C)
 - 6. Bombay
 - 7. South Bombay
 - 8. Hogansburg

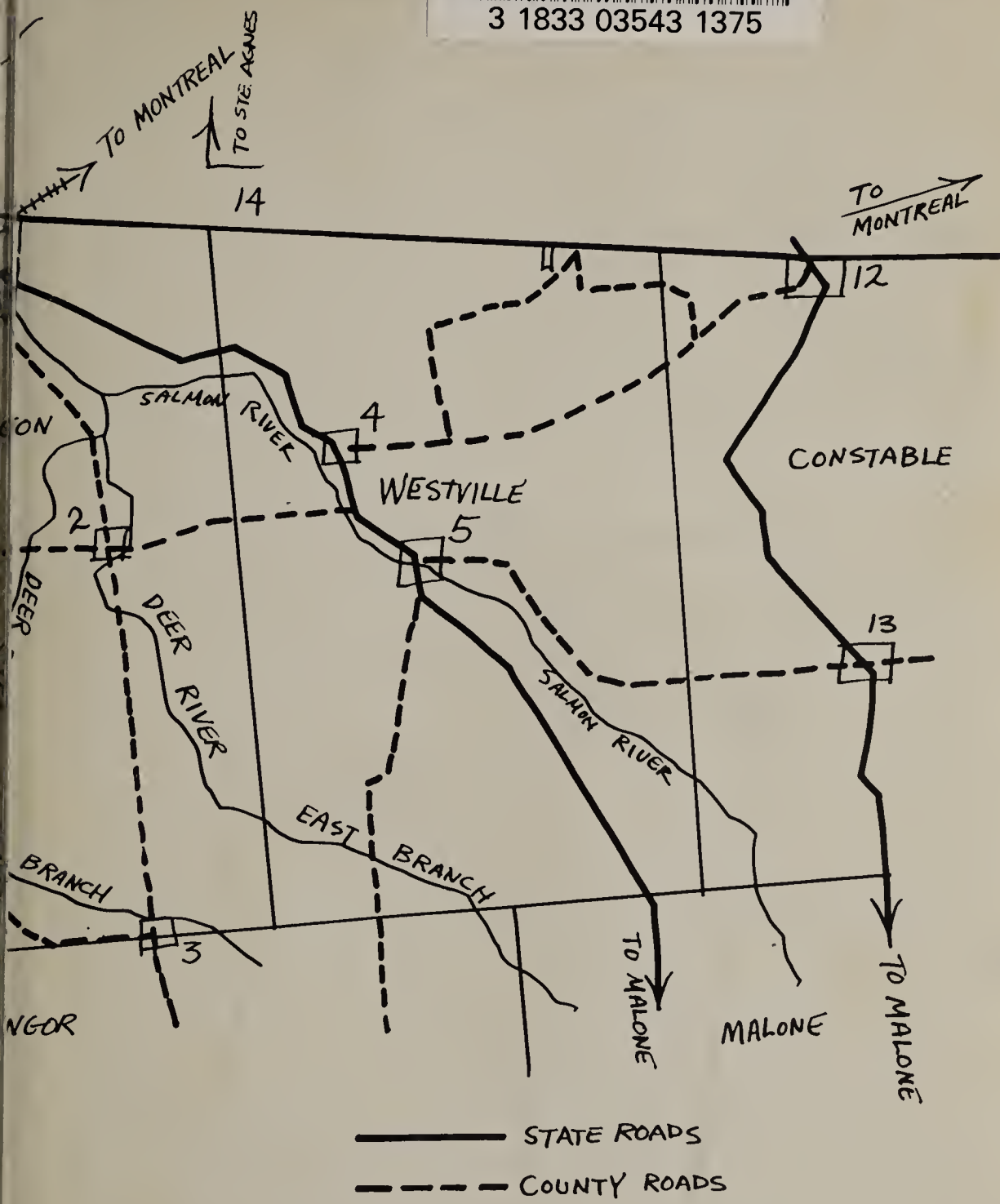
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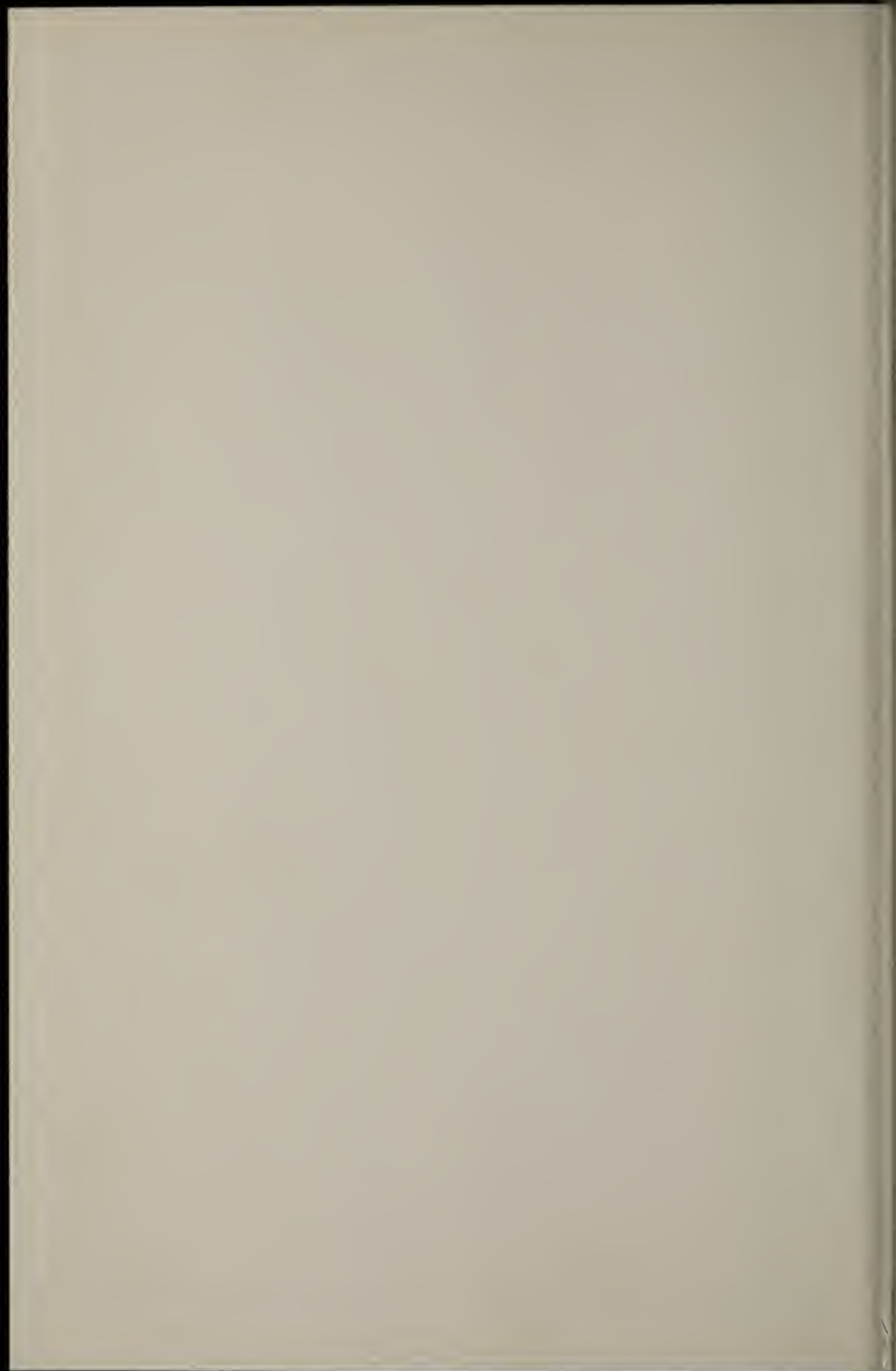


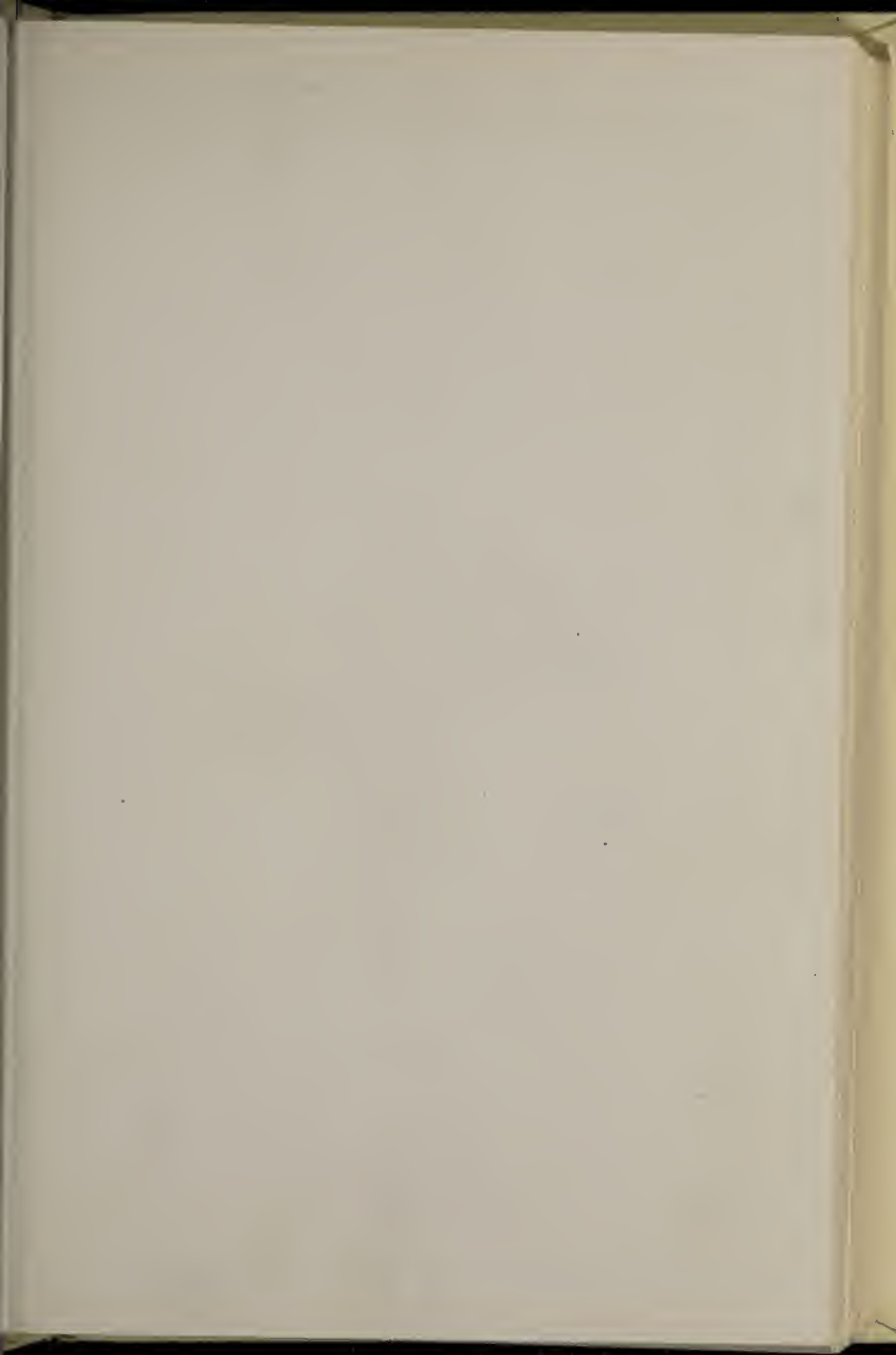
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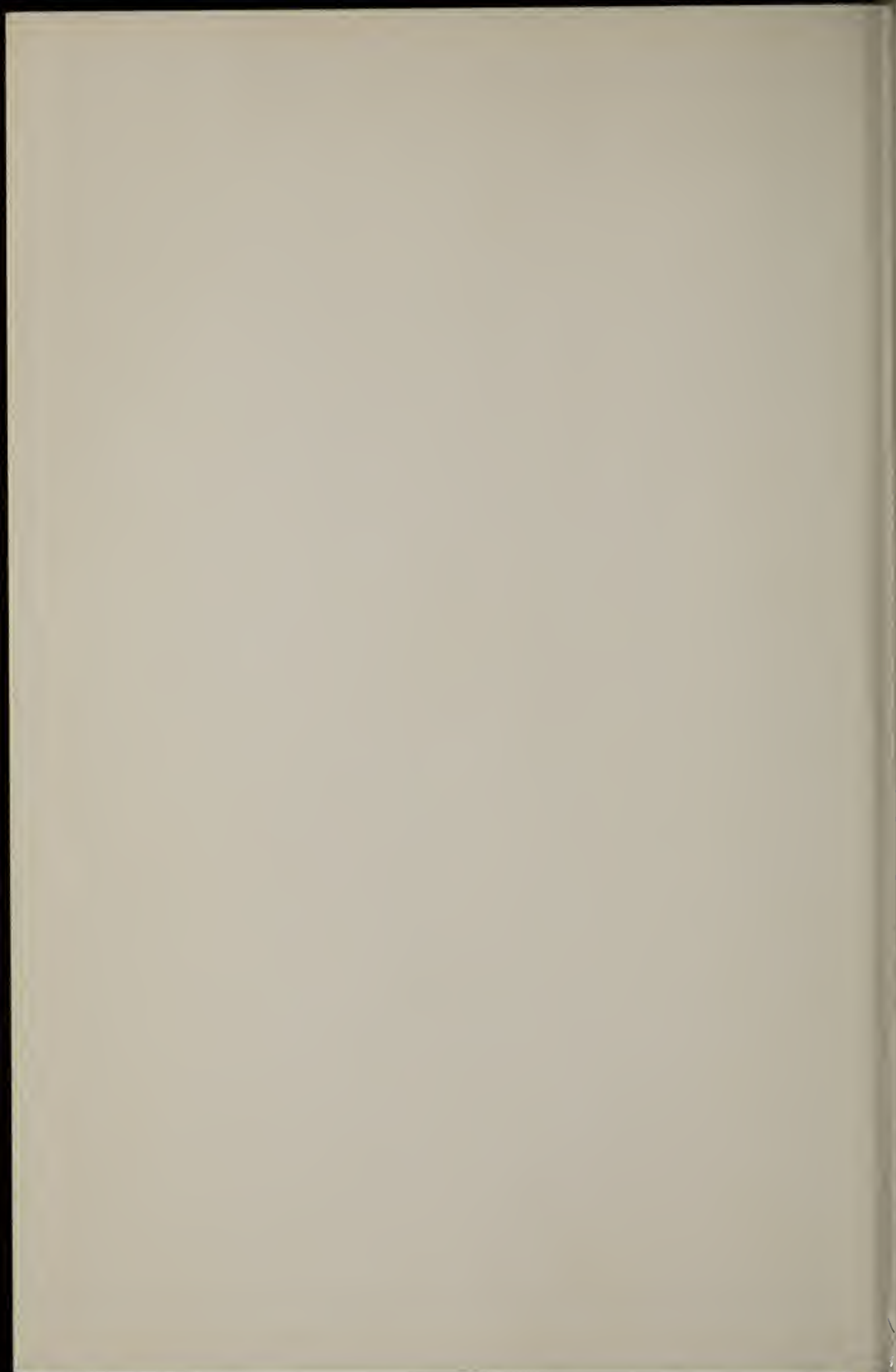
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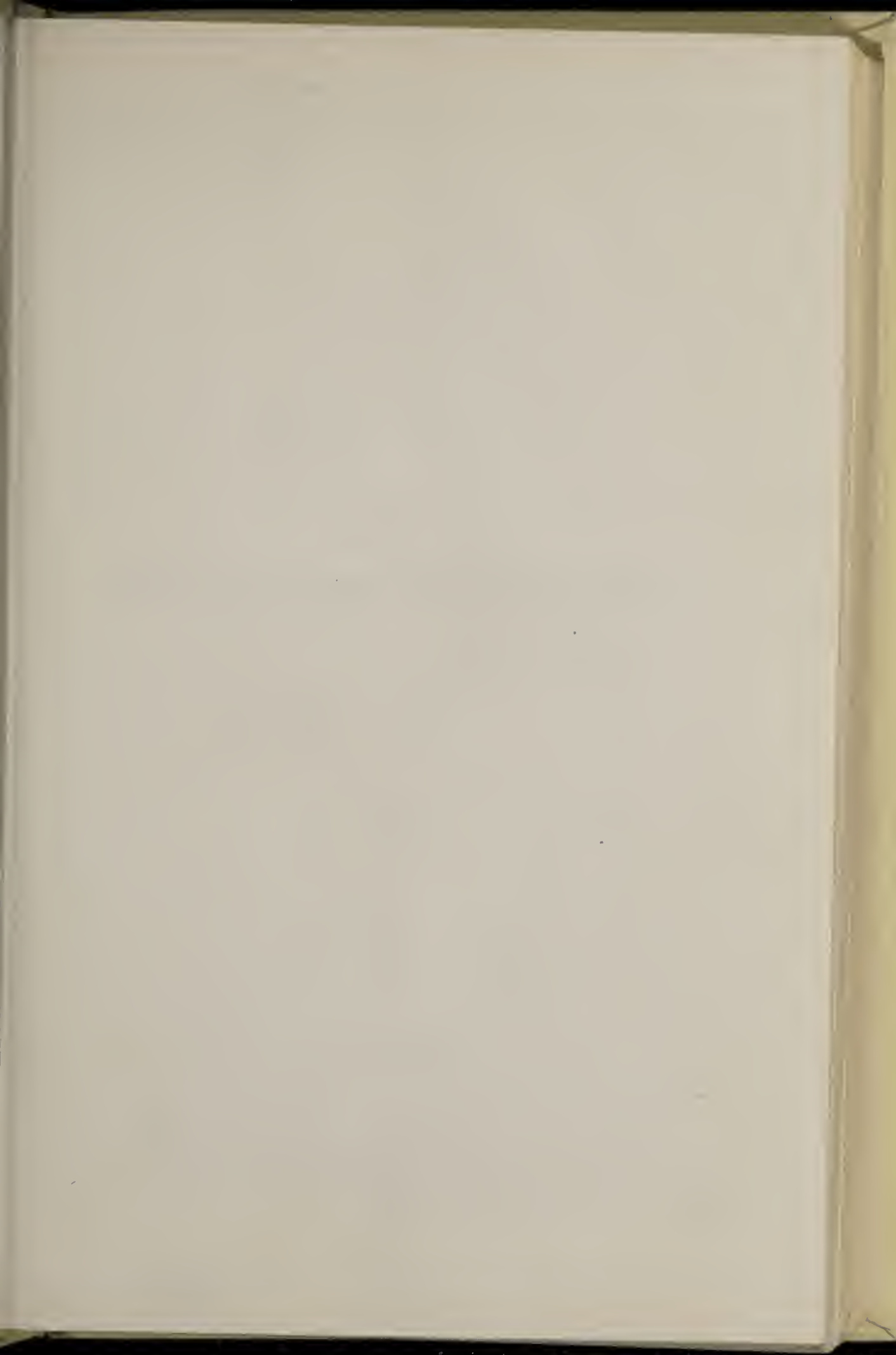


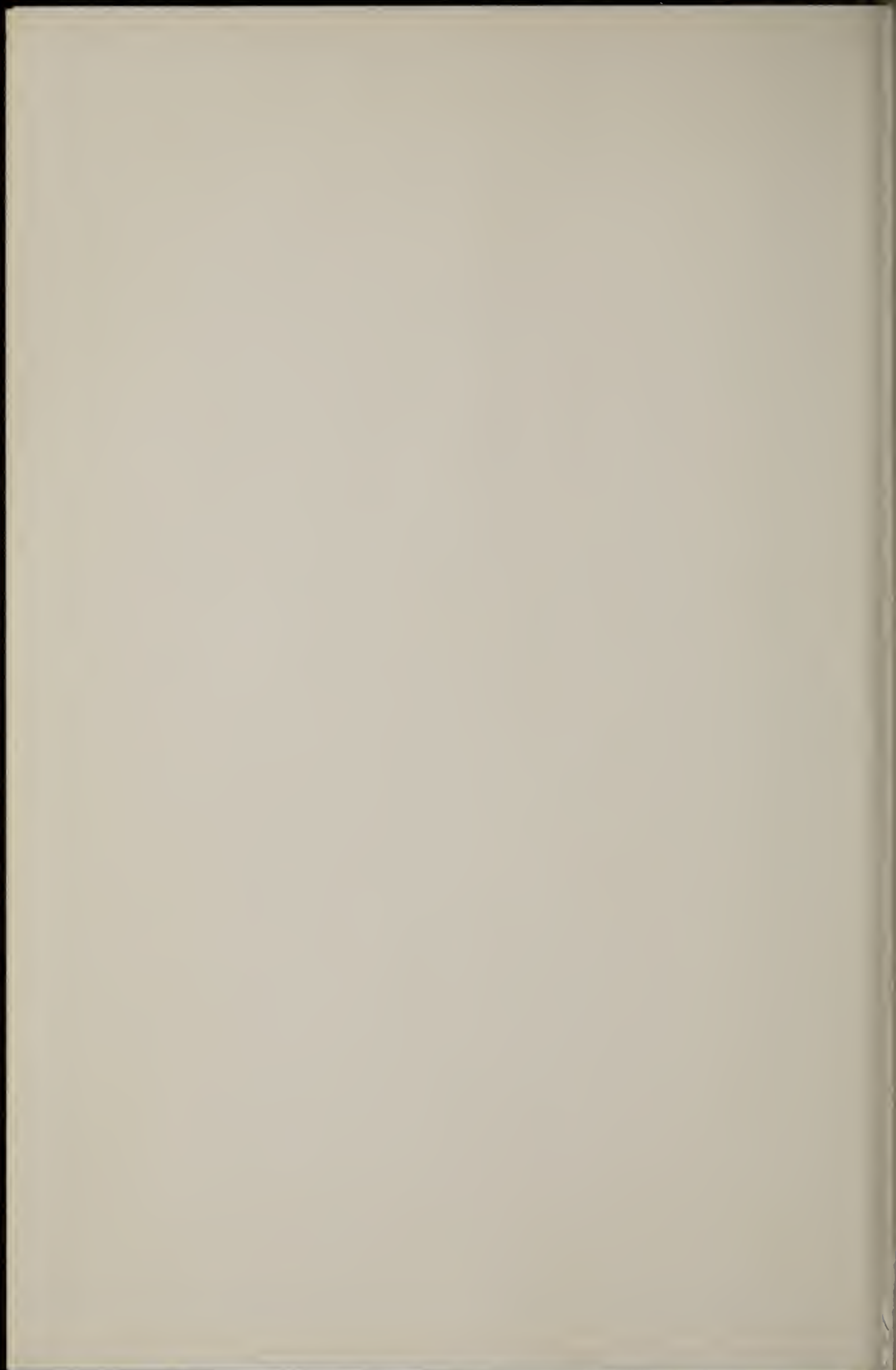
- 9. St. Regis Village
- 10. Dundee Lines
- 11. Sulphur Spring
- 12. Trout River
- 13. Constable
- 14. The Beaver, and Fiddler's Elbow
- 15. Lake St. Francis; Hopkins Point
- 16. The Irish Ridge
- 17. Dog Hollow











FORT COVINGTON AND HER NEIGHBORS



Herbert D. A. Donovan
1929

Fort Covington and Her Neighbors

A HISTORY OF THREE TOWNS

by

HERBERT D. A. DONOVAN, PH.D.

O'HARE BOOKS
NEW YORK

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Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 63-21001

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Published and Distributed by
O'Hare Books, A Division of
Photolith Printing Corp., New York 3, N. Y.

Allen County Public Library
900 Webster Street
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Howard G. Lyons



Marion Wilson Lyons



Mrs. F. Leslie Cross



F. Leslie Cross

DEDICATION AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book is dedicated to Howard G. Lyons, editor and publisher of the Fort Covington SUN for the past 33 years, and to his affable and capable wife and indispensable assistant, Marion Wilson Lyons. Without their faithful and untiring work over that long period, and the zealous work of their predecessors, this chronicle would have been impossible.

Neither Howard nor Marion nor myself lay any claim to infallibility. All statements of fact made in the SUN files and used here by me are made in good faith and are believed to be true; but it has been manifestly impossible to verify them from other sources. I expect to receive and will be glad to preserve corrections of fact or notable omissions, if properly detailed; and, should any later edition or supplement of this book be published, such errors will be corrected.

The sources of the material in this book are: 1) my personal knowledge; 2) personal interviews and written correspondence with persons who are or have been connected with the Three Towns; 3) the SUN files, which I have diligently searched through many volumes; 4) cemetery inscriptions and town records; 5) official government documents; and 6) previously printed material, as listed in the bibliography below. Each of these sources is subject to the same limitations and imperfections mentioned above. The selection and arrangement of data is my own, and I apologize for errors of fact, unwarranted implications, and any seeming over-emphasis or under-emphasis.

In addition to the files of the SUN and — to a limited extent — other Franklin County papers, I have consulted officials and official documents whenever possible. The local officials have been uniformly courteous, and have

furnished me with much helpful data. This applies to Mayor Dick Cappiello, Village Attorney Robert Regan, Customs Inspector Don Matteson, and Town Clerk Bernard Fleury of Westville. County officials who cooperated effectively include William B. Andrews and Edgar McCarthy, of the Agricultural Agency, and Henry Maguire and other members of the County Clerk's staff. The Franklin County Veterans Service Agency supplied several sheets of well-documented data. On the state level, I got little of value, especially, as I have said, on the prohibition situation; the same applies to most federal agencies whom I contacted, despite Congressman Kilburn's attempts to enlist their aid. The City Clerk of Covington, Kentucky, verified the naming of that city after General Leonard Covington.

Cemetery inscriptions are very enlightening, although often incomplete and, in a few cases, contain obvious errors.

Among libraries and universities which furnished me information were Cornell, Middlebury, Purdue, the Library of Congress, the New York City Public Library, and the Wead Library of Malone, through the courtesy of Librarian David W. Minnich.

By far the most pleasant and the most rewarding work I have done was the collection of oral accounts and personal letters from present and former residents of the Three Towns. Many sent me lengthy hand-written letters, which I was not, in some cases, able to acknowledge, as I hoped to do. It gives me pleasure now to assure all these good friends of the value I put on their work. Some of them I do not know, personally. Some have passed away during the progress of my work; I intend the book to be a modest tribute to the loyalty of all of them.

I acknowledge first the great help I received from a small but enthusiastic group of friends interested in the History, and willing to furnish not only encouragement, but material essential to a reasonably complete story.

This group includes Mr. and Mrs. Lyons, "Dick" Capiello, Harland R. Horton — County Historian of Franklin County — who generously contributed many pictures he took; Francis D. Holden, Levi Smythe, F. Leslie Cross, the beloved and much-missed historian of Bombay; Mrs. William B. Creighton, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene DeGowin, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Rowley and Mrs. Warren Mount.

Next should be mentioned those who sent detailed accounts of early pioneer families with whom they were connected. These include Mrs. John Ellsworth, Sr., Mrs. Howard Cushman, Robert A. Cushman (of Huntington, L. I.), Dr. Wayne Merrick (of Allegheny College), Mrs. Genevieve Denneen Hayes, Mrs. Bessie Adams, Miss Gladys Henry, the Misses Elsie and Jessie Buchanan of California, Miss Mary Condon (now of Potsdam), Mrs. Dorothy Jewett (of New Paltz, N. Y.), Harmon L. Remmell (of Fayetteville, Arkansas), Mrs. Carrie Twaddle (of Burke), the late Albert W. Armstrong (of California), Mrs. William J. Smith (of Bradenton, Florida), the late Fred A. Wright (of Malone), Mrs. Olga Kelsey Robinson (of Florida); and Mrs. Virginia Gilchrist, of Barnet, Vt.

Special mention should be made of Robert Hale, of Malone, who generously supplied a complete list of our former postmasters — data which not even the United States Postoffice Department could furnish. The Kelsey brothers — William and Harry, of Schenectady and Troy, N. Y. — gave a most vivid description of rum-running.

The chancery offices of the Roman Catholic dioceses of Ogdensburg and of Valleyfield, Quebec, supplied invaluable data on the Catholic churches and schools of this area. Mrs. Maud Banks, Mrs. Drake of Bombay, and articles in the SUN are my chief sources of information on Protestant churches.

Finally, I extend grateful acknowledgment to each of the following, who sent or gave me material which I used,

and which has added to the value of the book:

Clifford M. Berry of Bangor, John Black, Mrs. Gordon Addie of Montreal, Mrs. Agnes Amyotte of Malone, William Boyle, Dr. Jack Brannen of Long Lake, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Brockway, Mrs. Albert Barber, Margaret Bero, Margaret Croke, Jesse Croke, George S. Condon of California, Mrs. Mildred Cappiello, Thomas C. Cavanaugh, Mrs. Daniel (Cotter) Burke of Cincinnati, Mrs. Lee (Vass) Cameron, of Verdun, P.Q., Carl Cross, Mrs. J. L. Cummings of Clayton, N. Y., Frances Cushman, Grace Fleming, D. Alton Davis of Westwood, N. J., Mrs. Charles Dempsey, Joseph Dingle, John Fallon, the late Sherry Foster, Robert Fraser of Ottawa, Jack Hanna of New York City, Mr. and Mrs. John Hughes, Edith Hughes of Malone, Grace Holden, Cameron Farquhar, Mrs. Simon Gleason, Mrs. H. John Farquhar, Alfred Laraby, Mrs. Angelo (Grow) Maxwell of New York City, Thomas and Theresa Murphy, T. W. McDonnell of California, Gertrude McElwain, Mrs. Albert McNair, Mrs. Guy McNasser of Skerry, and Mrs. Mildred Miller of North Carolina, Betti Longley of Syracuse, Mrs. Etta Potter of Brushton, Mrs. M. G. Northrup of Louisville, Kentucky, Mrs. Edna (Cushman) Pendorf (of Ballston Spa, N. Y.), Marion Ruddick of Ottawa, Mrs. Nellie Tailon, Mrs. Wesley Russell, Postmaster C. Walter Smallman, Ola Stockwell, Clara Smith and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Jim McConnell, Mrs. Lyle Shoen, Mrs. Bessie Sweet, Bruce Thebert, Oliver Turner of West Springfield, Mass., Mrs. Allen B. Williams of Olean, New York.

To any whose names I have unintentionally omitted, I offer my sincere apologies; and to the few who failed to answer my letters, or whose answers came too late to be used, I can only say "your cooperation might have made this chronicle more useful."

HERBERT D. A. DONOVAN

New Hyde Park, Long Island, New York, April, 1963

INTRODUCTION

The story told in the following pages is an account, as factual and accurate as my recollection and investigation could make it, of my boyhood home in northern New York. It has been for me a labor of love, based on the same sentiments that led Rufus Choate to defend his Alma Mater—"it is a small place, but there are those who love it."

It is a work that has involved much research, which would doubtless have been more fruitful had it started at an earlier period of my life, when not only were my physical resources better, but when I would have had the benefit of help from many of my senior fellow-townsmen, now gone to their eternal home. Nevertheless, the account, such as it is, could no longer be delayed, for both oral tradition and written narrative fail and are lost with the passage of time.

A prime purpose I have in mind, in compiling these facts, is to lay a foundation for those who are now the younger generation in these towns to preserve and record their family history, so that both themselves and their children may know and enjoy it in years to come.

By coincidence, it happens to be just two hundred years since white men made the beginning of these Three Towns. Their achievements here have therefore reached considerable proportions, and should be recorded, if they are significant, as I think they are. It is my hope that these pages will throw light on worthy deeds of worthy men and women, magnifying neither their virtues nor their faults.

I hope, too, that my words will serve to preserve the memory of people and events that might otherwise be forgotten, and to give pleasure to many today. I make no apology for including "little people" who would doubtless be astonished to find their names in print. And, finally, I express regret for all errors of commission and omission. I would be happy to see similar narratives on neighboring North Country towns, whose story is essentially like ours.



VILLAGE OF FORT COVINGTON

1

THE SCENE OF OUR STORY

The Three Towns of Bombay, Fort Covington and Westville, taken in that order, comprise the northwestern corner of Franklin County, New York State. They are bounded on the north by the Province of Quebec, Canada, and on the west by St. Lawrence County. To the east and south lie the other towns of Franklin County, whose inhabitants and history have been much like theirs.

The Three Towns lie entirely north of the Adirondack Mountains, and, as one approaches them from the south, he drives along well-paved modern roads, crossing gentle ridges, running, roughly, east and west, and dropping very gently down into the basin of the St. Lawrence: On a clear day, one gets many a beautiful view of a peaceful, well-kept countryside, with no congestion or industrial confusion, and the stately St. Lawrence in the near distance winding its way to the sea. Between the ridges there are, occasionally, depressions in the form of swamps, which early settlers called "swales." These were usually avoided as undesirable place to live, because of the difficulty of drainage in those days when the melting of the tremendous quantities of snow — often exceeding 100 inches in a season — was apt to create floods, then called "freshets"; but, with the cutting off of the primeval forest, this threat has long since passed. As we shall see, it somewhat affected settlement.

The rock deposits of the region are limestone at the north, and sandstone, further south. A small area, now in the St. Regis Indian Reservation, is a sedimentary plain, which in distant ages was part of the bed of a vast lake gouged out by glaciers which, in their slow retreat, left behind silt that has much fertility. At some points in the area, one may come across a field full of "glacial drift"

boulders of all sizes, rendering the field incapable of cultivation, and practically useless, since the passing of the sheep which once picked their way about. But such spots are vastly outnumbered by smooth and well-drained fields, easily amenable to cultivation.

The Three Towns have much limestone and are the only part of the county that does not necessarily need the application of prepared lime to the soil. In the early days, limekilns were common along the Border, and remains may still be seen. Some stone houses are put together with mortar made from lime. The soil here is largely clay loam — fertile, but rather late in drying out. Agronomists identify this as the "Covington-Granville soil." The southern part of the towns is underlaid by sandstone. To scientists, this is "Colton-Adams soil"; to the residents it is "the sand plains." It extends from west to east in a strip three miles or more in width — sandy, stony, quick to dry out. After the great pines which once covered it were cut off by lumbermen, this sandy area, much of it not even fenced, remained barren for generations. Wild berries used to abound on it, providing in summer a modest income to the wives of tenant farmers and day laborers, who sold the berries in neighboring villages for ten cents a quart or even less. This, in the time when "a dollar a day was very good pay," was an item not to be despised in the family budget. In recent years, "the plains" have had something of a revival, due to the increase of market gardening for Malone and Massena of vegetables and melons.

The climate of Franklin County is described by the state agricultural extension service as a "cool, humid continental climate, with summers cool and short, winters cold and long; annual rainfall is about 37 inches, one-half of which falls from May through September; April is usually the driest month, with 2½ inches of rainfall; about 100 inches of snow falls annually in the northern part, as compared to 65 inches for the state as a whole; no doubt this was

what prompted Senator Young, a downstate man, to refer to Franklin County as "New York's Siberia." The temperature ranges from as low as 46 below zero to 100 degrees above, the yearly average being 41 degrees, but during the growing season, which extends to 135 days, it averages 60 degrees. July is the warmest month, February the coldest. Frost has been reported as late as June 20, and as early as Sept. 10. The prevailing winds are from the west, shifting toward the north in winter, and toward the south in summer.

As in all rural communities, the weather — its vagaries and probabilities — has always been a staple subject of speculation and conversation here. The well-known observations on it by Mark Twain and Eugene Wood could be duplicated many times over, but it still remains the one unchangeable factor in material conditions.

Natural calamities have been notably rare in our locality, as compared with many parts of the country. And so, when one did occur, it was fully chronicled. Hardly had the pioneers settled into their rough cabins than there came upon them the calamitous season of 1816, the "year without a summer." There was frost in every month, crops could not ripen, potatoes grew only to the size of walnuts, and there was widespread distress. When a boatload of flour finally reached Fort Covington, there was almost a panic to get it. Many details of this disaster are reported in Frederick J. Seaver's excellent history. It is significant that this abnormal weather extended over much of the United States, and it is very fortunate that there has been no repetition of it. The fall, particularly October, when the first frosts tinge the autumn foliage with marvellously varying and beautiful colors, is usually the most pleasant season, but occasionally a windstorm (almost a tornado) will strike the area and wreak havoc. Such a storm, in 1887, cost the life of a little girl near Fort Covington Centre, when her father's frame house collapsed; and in the same storm a young man in a hay field in Bombay was killed by lightning. The winter

of 1933-34 set records when snow arrived on Oct. 22, and stayed through a late spring. On Dec. 2, 1942, a heavy snowfall, followed by a blizzard, blocked traffic for days, and led to the suspension for a time of government restrictions on the use of gasoline for vehicles such as snowplows.

Easter Sunday of 1940 was snow-bound by a blizzard which continued until Wednesday, but, just a year later, the SUN recorded that "after two weeks of swell weather, ice in the Salmon River is pushing gently down toward the St. Lawrence . . . the transition from winter to spring has been as charming as it has been gradual and gentle." On Mar. 26-28, 1955, occurred an extra-ordinary fall of snow, which paralyzed the area for three days, with gales of wind up to 65 miles an hour. Old residents called it "the worst storm of the century." The editor of the SUN lamented the great loss of bird life it caused. The average date of the going out of the ice is about March 15, and the event was often the occasion of crowds of joyful observers gathering on the bridges to watch the sight.

The Three Towns are watered by several rivers, which all drain into the St. Lawrence. The streams are the Big Salmon, which comes from the southeast through Westville and Fort Covington; Trout River, which empties into the Chateaugay, just across the Canada line; Deer River, which has two branches, which mingle about a mile from Fort Covington village, and in a short distance empty into the Big Salmon; the Little Salmon, which also has two very winding branches, and whose junction with the Big Salmon is in Fort Covington village; and Pike Creek, which waters the extreme northern area and empties into the Salmon in Canadian territory. A small stream known as Cushman Brook flows past Westville Corners into the Big Salmon. Many of the rivers, it will be noted, are named from fish which formerly abounded in them; but, except for sport, not much use was made of the fish. The St. Regis River flows through Hogansburg and the Indian Reservation.

2 FARMING, OUR CHIEF INDUSTRY

From the days of the first settlers, the chief occupation and source of income to the inhabitants has always been, and still is, farming. Milk has been the principal "money crop," and the checks received from the factories were often the only money readily available. The considerable distance from large cities diminished the opportunity for high returns.

Nevertheless, many fine herds of cattle were owned here, and during the nineteenth century, cheese factories and butter factories — mainly the latter — were numerous and successful. They included: in Bombay, a cheese factory, built by Mortimer and William Russell in 1872, bought by Thomas Sears, who enlarged it and sold it to William McKenna, in 1882; a creamery at Dog Hollow, owned by Clark and Ross; a creamery between Bombay and Hogansburg, sold to Bradley and Monaghan; and a creamery in Hogansburg, built by Henry Bowker, and later owned by Benjamin and Totman. In Fort Covington, there was a factory at Deer River Corners, built before 1875, and operated continually until just a few years ago; and a factory on Center Street, in Fort Covington village, often referred to as the Drum Street factory. This was operated for many years around the beginning of this century by E. O. Forbes, with genial George Campbell as its efficient and popular buttermaker; it was sold to the Dairymen's League, who used it for years as a condensary. Milk is now deposited in "bulk tanks" on the farms. In Westville, John L. Rowley built a cheese factory on the Fort Covington Road near the Hanna farm. He and his son, John W., also operated a butter factory at Westville Centre, using, in part, milk brought from a receiving station.

Down to about 1890, butter was made in the farmers' homes by their wives and daughters, and the back-breaking labor carried on by them can hardly be conceived by their descendants. The milk, all milked by hand, was cooled overnight in pans in the cellars, which were usually large and airy, with outside doors. Those cellars played a great role in the household economy as storage places for all the food that was then saved for months, there being no shopping centers nor easy ways of replenishing food. A serious problem was how to keep the cellars frost-proof; this was usually solved by "banking" the house with earth and leaves, secured by boards on the outside to a height of several feet. In the 1870s, "Cooley cans" came into use — upright cans with a glass window at the bottom, and a faucet through which the settled cream could be drawn off. Many thousands of dollars worth of butter was made in those cellars by the farm women, often with the distraction of small children tugging at their skirts. This writer remembers vividly that it was there that he got his first education, learning to read and spell, with his mother's patient responses to his endless questions about the words he found in the columns of the weekly newspapers; thus, by the time he reached school age he could read practically as well as he can today.

The butter was packed in small tubs, and then had to be hauled over the unpaved roads to the nearest railroad station — either Malone for Westville farmers, or Moira for the other two towns.

The following data are quoted from a paper prepared about 1903 for the Franklin County Historical Society, by Charles P. Elliott of Fort Covington, and reprinted in the *SUN* during the winter of 1939-40. Mr. Elliott was one of the best-informed and most respected men of his day, and his statements can be accepted as authoritative on events of which he could say, as Virgil says "All of which I saw, and a great part of which I was." Mr. Elliot wrote (in part):

"The dairy interests of Franklin County did not amount to much prior to 1845 . . . In 1843 an Eastern buyer came to Bombay, and in that town and Fort Covington bought 200 firkins of butter at ten cents a pound. The firkins were barrel-shaped, headed up at both ends like pork barrels and each held about 120 pounds of butter . . . piled up . . . on the side of the highway, ready for teams to haul to Plattsburgh. . . ."

"The Ogdensburg and Lake Champlain Railroad . . . greatly lessened the expenses of getting dairy products to market. This stimulated farmers to keep more cows, improve the breed . . . in every way to care for them and handle them gently in the stables and out. . . . Associate dairying reached here about 1870. . . . Soon after the completion of the O. & L. C. Railroad, Alexander Sears of Bombay, father of Hon. T. A. Sears, contracted with farmers in Bombay and Fort Covington who made good butter for June, July and August butter at 14 cents per pounds, and for September, October and November butter at 20 cents per pound. The butter made in this county prior to the Jewett pan and the adoption of the factory system was — a great deal of it — very poor stuff, unhealthy and not fit for use."

"About 1865, Benjamin F. Jewett of Bangor invented a milk pan which he got patented April 13, 1869 . . . this pan was a great success. The writer called on Mr. Jewett several times to find out if the dairy and pans were as good as represented. Mr. Jewett showed the writer his bills of butter sales, which showed that his butter was selling in market for nearly twice as much per pound as common butter. He also proved by figures that he got considerably more butter out of a hundred pounds of milk than dairymen who used the smaller pan. . . . Between 1871 and 1875 there were 21 butter factories built in this county."

"The third annual meeting of the Franklin County Dairymen's Association was held at King's Hall (Malone).

... The speakers ... were Hon. Harris Lewis of Herkimer County; Prof. F. B. Arnold, secretary of the American Dairymen's Association; Peter Gardiner of Dundee; and Gen. N. M. Curtis, of Ogdensburg. H. N. Burns, Esq., president of the Association, C. P. Elliott, Esq. of Fort Covington, E. A. Hyde, Esq. of Bangor, read interesting papers. Prof. Arnold ... said that nowhere in the state or nation are there in like area so many factories devoted exclusively to butter making as in Franklin County."

"In the winter of 1869-70, a largely-attended meeting in Fort Covington named a committee, consisting of Nicholas Farlinger and C. P. Elliott, to visit the factories in St. Lawrence County and report back, which they did. The outcome was a large, well-built and well-equipped cheese factory, owned and run by Peter Gardiner, James Y. Cameron and Jacob Hollenbeck. The first salesmen were Burns, Elliott and Cameron. The average price per pound for that season's make of cheese was thirteen cents ... very satisfactory. The factory was used for cheese making about fifteen year, and then changed for butter making. E. O. Forbes owns and runs the village butter factory,"—i.e., in 1908 — "has been a hard worker, has made good butter, got the good will of the people and made money, honestly ... runs his factory twelve months in the year."

"Statistics show that the average annual sales of dairy products for the last 25 years have been about \$500,000 . . . the farmers who have stuck to the dairv have improved their farms, their buildings, their breeds of cows, and to a considerable extent have educated their sons and daughters, lifted the mortgages off their farms, and paid their debts."

"In 1892 in Franklin County, 1,649,189 pounds of butter and 237,958 pounds of cheese were made; in Fort Covington 173,000 pounds of butter, no cheese; in Bombay, 64,000 pounds of butter, 94,076 pounds of cheese; in Westville — with two factories not reported — 38,750 pounds of butter."

"The first dairy factory in Bombay was a cheese factory. . . . About 1875, a company built a butter factory. The principal men of the association were Francis Shields, Alexander Sears, Rufus T. Eldred, Holden S. Sweet, Daniel McCarthy, F.V.B. Rolfe, Seymour Elliott and George Webster. William McKenna bought this factory in 1892. He also ran the Clarke and Ross factory at Dog Hollow, the Drum Street creamery in Fort Covington, the Grow skimming station near the Brasher town line, and the Keefe station in Fort Covington. Mr. McKenna made in 1903 403,600 pounds of butter from which the patrons received about \$90,000."

Next to milk, the chief money crop of these towns in years past was potatoes. It was learned very early that the soil of Franklin County, and especially the limestone soil near the Canadian border, produced a superior quality of potatoes, which commanded a good price. The Census of 1900 states that at that time, the county ranked seventh in total number of bushels in the state, but first in bushels per acre. An item in the *SUN* in 1920 reports Floyd Gleason as saying that he had 420 lbs. from 10 lbs. of seed. Potato yield in the Three Towns sometimes exceeded 400 bushels per acre. It was not until after 1890 that Paris Green began to be used. Evidently, the potato bug had arrived.

In early days, practically every house had its vegetable garden, with a wide variety of good products, and every farm had its potato field, which brought in revenue. Seed potatoes were sliced, planted, and, when ripe, dug by hand — or, to be more accurate, by foot — involving heavy work for the whole family, including small children, in picking up the "spuds." Most of the standard vegetables that we have today, including melons, were raised in the nineteenth century, although tomatoes were looked upon with some suspicion, and asparagus was valued for its graceful foliage and bright berries; I still remember my astonishment when, on going away to college, I first saw asparagus served on the table.

Hay was a leading crop, and the fluctuation in its yield and price was a serious matter to the whole area. In some dry seasons, recourse was had to marsh hay — i.e., wild hay cut on the extensive marshes along the banks of the Salmon, in Canada. The right to cut this had to be leased, and disputes over it, extending even to court cases, were not uncommon. Marsh hay — nowhere near as nutritious as domestic hay, and not particularly relished by the livestock — was nevertheless a help to many farmers. It was usually cut in the late fall, and hauled home on sleds on the winter ice. Haystacks were a familiar sight, for many farmers did not have barn accommodation for all their hay. The building of a stack was a job demanding good judgment, for it must withstand the rigors of a northern winter. Many stacks were fenced in, and the desperate efforts of winter-starved cattle to get at the hay would sometimes produce strange sights around the stacks.

Corn was mostly raised as food for animals, although, for a week or so in early summer, people enjoyed the delicacy of early “corn on the cob.” Silos began to be built, around the beginning of this century; and, like other new movements, it was overdone.

The other grains grown included winter wheat, oats, barley, rye, flax and buckwheat (which, authorities tell us, is not really a grain). William Reed relates that, when his family moved onto the farm which his foster-father bought in Bombay in 1823, “some seven acres had been thoroughly cleared and sowed with winter wheat, the previous year; a half acre . . . was planted to corn . . . and a small patch to potatoes. These crops were . . . our chief dependence for food for the first year.” And they continued to be, over the generations, for thousands of people. Rye provided material for bread of special flavor, and buckwheat cakes with home made maple syrup provided a treat which those who knew it in their youth will ever yearn for.

Two other crops that were important in an earlier day, but have almost disappeared from the Three Towns, were flax and hops. Flax furnished the staple out of which linen was spun on the distaff and spindle, then to be woven on a loom by some local weaver of repute. The tough, rather slippery cloth was then made into almost indestructible garments (quite regardless of the dictates of fashion) in a local shop, or, more probably, by a travelling seamstress who would live in the home for a week or two.

Hops usually grew well in Franklin County. An article in the SUN, in 1903, states that "it has been said that brewers rate hops grown in this part of the state the best grown in the U. S." In the 1880s their growth and sale for the manufacture of beer was an important and exciting industry here. The excitement arose from the rapid and excessive fluctuation in their price, which rose to as high as one dollar twenty cents a pound, and fell back to as low as three or four cents. Seaver says "It used to be reckoned that, including interest on investment, depreciation of poles and kilns, labor, sacking, etc., the cost of hops to the grower was about a shilling" (twelve and a half cents) "a pound." In most years, this was realized, but the possibility of high profits led to wild speculation, and ruined some hop-growers. Alexander Walker of Westville raised his first crop in 1825; he sold 1,200 pounds in Montreal at fifty cents a pound. Among the largest growers in early times were Moses Brooks and William Prue in Westville, and John Dewey in Fort Covington. In more recent years George Hale farmed large yards in Westville.

A special crop of no economic importance, but affording much happiness to many French-Canadian inhabitants is the native tobacco, called "tabac," or, more colloquially, "bob-law." A few rows of the sturdy plant may often be seen in a garden. Dr. Macartney comments humorously on it in his "Fifty Years."

There have been rumors that unscrupulous outsiders have tried to start the raising of marijuana in secluded parts of the towns, but it is to be hoped that that is not true.

The cultivation of fruit in the Three Towns was largely confined to raising apples, mainly for domestic use. Every farm had its apple orchard, and most of the standard varieties, such as Baldwin, McIntosh and Northern Spy, produced very good fruit, which was saved for eating in the long winter evenings. An important task was the coring and stringing of apples into dried apples to make pies; every member of the family could be brought into that service. Cider, of course, was a big side line; we shall speak of that elsewhere. There were plums and pears in occasional cases, and berries from the fields and woods, but by and large, fruit growing attracted little attention in early days.

It was different with poultry and eggs. The comparative inexpensiveness of raising them, their value for food, and the possibility of selling eggs for cash or merchandise in the local stores, combined to make poultry popular. Arthur Armstrong of Westville, records that his Aunt Margaret (McFadden) Armstrong "had money to lend during most of her life . . . most of it she earned from her poultry. For many years she got all the money which came to the farm through the sale of chickens, ducks, geese and turkeys. The eggs went to pay for household necessities and were traded in at the stores in Trout River or at Tolmie's Line Store." The care of the poultry and eggs devolved largely upon the women, and they were able to strike hard bargains. John McQueen Sr. insisted on keeping one or two guinea fowl, whose shrill chattering he insisted was a warning against predatory birds. Eggs brought to the stores as payment for groceries were "candled" carefully to ensure their freshness; one of the more disagreeable tasks of the storekeepers.

So much for farming in the early days. The more recent changes in our agriculture, and its condition today will be dealt with in a later chapter.

3 FIRST INHABITANTS—THE INDIANS

Unlike most sections of the U. S., this area seems to have been quite uninhabited by the Indians. It afforded no hunting or fishing that could not be obtained more easily elsewhere; it was not on an important waterway or a natural highway of travel; and the Algonkian tribes that occupied lower Canada had little occasion to use this region, though, very likely, small parties of them may have traversed it occasionally. The Iroquois land lay far to the south, with the trackless Adirondack Mountains in between. While one body of Iroquois did eventually locate here, and played an important role in our history — these Indians have really lived as settlers, and have not materially changed the history of their white neighbors.

The Mohawk name for the Salmon River is Negent-siagoo, which means "the place where we catch large fish," a name justified by testimony of early whites; Buchanan's mill waterwheel was sometimes stopped by the accumulation in it of huge salmon. The still larger sturgeon and maskinonge apparently stayed in the St. Lawrence.

When the French came to Montreal in 1535, they did not continue as far as the Salmon, nor did their successors, in their searching for "La Chine," permit themselves to be turned aside from the great St. Lawrence.

The first white men known to have become permanent residents of our area were two brothers named Tarbell, who had been brought up by the Indians at Caughnawaga, near Montreal, whither they had been taken, after being captured in an Indian raid on their birthplace, Groton, Mass., about 1725. Reared by the Caughnawagas, who were a branch of the Mohawks, the Tarbells married Indian wives and reared families at St. Regis, where they landed after

leaving Caughnawaga because of the friction caused in the tribe by the full-blood Indians' resentment of their more progressive ways. A few years later — probably about 1760 — these emigrés were joined by a considerable number of Caughnawagas, led by their priest, Fr. Antoine Gordan, who, it is said, decided to lead them away from the corrupting temptations of liquor, gambling, etc. to be found in nearby Montreal.

The St. Regis settlement and the adjacent river derives its name from St. John Francis Regis, on whose feast day — June 16 — Father Gordan arrived there in 1762, and, conforming to the custom of the Church illustrated all over this continent, bestowed on the little settlement its patronal name. It has been continuously inhabited by Indians for over two hundred years, and the stone church is a landmark on the St. Lawrence. Naturally, the Indians did most of their travelling in the early days by water, in canoes, rowboats and flatboats; or, in wintertime, by sleds on the ice. Part of the Indians live on Cornwall Island, which is in Canadian territory. St. Regis village consists of a single main street, unpaved, with a few stores, and the area devoted to the church, the rectory and the cemetery. The Indians have long been accustomed to visit and trade freely with the adjacent American villages, and, due to their exemption from some of our laws, they have enjoyed certain advantages.

On the south side of the lordly St. Lawrence, almost at the spot where the great river crosses the present international boundary at the 45th parallel a little promontory juts out into the river, making a scene of exquisite beauty. This was the spot selected by the little band of Indians led by Louis Tarbell to make their home when they were driven from Caughnawaga, and it is there that their descendants, now largely mixed with French blood, live today.

The place is called St. Regis, in honor of St. John Francis Regis, as mentioned above. The Indians brought there by Father Gordan were Iroquois, of the Mohawk tribe.

Their being so far from their ancestral home in the pleasant Mohawk Valley was due to the exigencies of the fierce rivalry between France and England for control of eastern North America. These Mohawks' ancestors had been converted, a century before, to the Catholic faith by Father Isaac Jogues and his fellow-missionaries, and had gone to Caughnawaga to practice their faith under French protection. Even after the English conquest of Quebec, they were allowed to practice their religion and their simple handicrafts; but it was hard for them to resist the temptations of the white man's liquor and gambling which was accessible in nearby Montreal, only nine miles from Caughnawaga.

The case of the Tarbell brothers who grew up among the Indians and never evinced any desire to return to civilization, was not unique, as the life of Eunice Williams, the supposed mother of Eleazar Williams, shows that when she was a mature woman, she visited her white relatives in Massachusetts, but would not stay with them.

Louis Tarbell was a man of high character and considerable ability, as were many of his family. Later, Lasor Tarbell was a prominent chief in the early 19th century, who, Hough says, was "very much esteemed by the whites for his prudence, candor, and great worth of character." By an interesting coincidence, the SUN of July 30, 1942, carried a lengthy obituary of Joseph Tarbell, "53, former chief of the St. Regis tribe, who died suddenly of a heart attack, last Thursday morning." This Joe Tarbell, it says "was a great and good Indian. He was a Carlisle graduate, afterwards captaining the baseball varsity at St. Michael's college, played in the major leagues for several seasons, was a classmate and close friend of Jim Thorpe. He became a leader of a progressive group of Indians who adopted the white man's method of farming." At the present time, there are numerous Tarbells on the Reservation. There have been, and are today, numerous other members of the tribe who were highly regarded by all with whom they came into con-

tact. Lewis A. Jacobs, who died on March 29th, 1947, spent all his 91 years on the Reservation, raised a large family, enjoyed the best credit in Fort Covington stores, such as Cosgrove's and Farquhar's, and on his death bed exhorted his sons to follow his example and to deal peaceably and honorably with all; Michael Solomon, Sr., studied for the priesthood, and, while not completing his course, has continued a man of high reputation.

Conversely, there have been many whites who have been most helpful to the Indians over long periods of years. Francis Taillon, of Dundee was Indian agent for many years. Dr. Blackett of Fort Covington was physician to the tribe for years and in August, 1940, was honored by them at a big pow-wow.

About 1800 of the 3700 Indians on the Reservation live on the American side. Of the 3700, Fr. Jacobs estimates that about 3200 are actual residents here; the other 500 go to industrial work outside — as far away as Niagara and Syracuse; about three-fifths of these are expert steel workers; the rest, laborers. Indians are noted as having a remarkable sense of equilibrium, far surpassing that of whites. This enables them to work fearlessly at high altitudes, and commands high wages in periods of emergency. One Indian is mentioned as having been paid as much as \$530 in a single week. At present, about one-third of the employees of the Slipper Corporation in Bombay village come from the Reservation. Many Indians on Cornwall Island work in a factory there which manufactures Lacrosse sticks, selling about 150,000 dozen annually. The Indians are indifferent farmers, and even now, much of that work is done by their women, as in colonial days. It is said that not over fifteen farms on the Reservation would be classified as "good."

Most of the Indians in olden days were as much at home on water as on land, a fact which the early French explorers quickly saw and made full use of, as we know from the records of LaSalle. The St. Regis travelled constantly up

and down the St. Lawrence in their graceful canoes and sturdy batteaux. Big John Lewis was considered the best pilot to guide boats through the dangerous Lachine rapids.

Early white settlers usually came into contact with the Indians when Indian women came among them peddling from farm to farm their hand-made baskets made from sweet grass, which grew plentifully along their rivers. The baskets, of many sizes and shapes, were not only fragrant, but often beautiful; and most homes in the Three Towns had some of them, which modern descendants prize as mementoes. A few baskets are still made in Indian homes.

The population of the Reservation is increasing, according to Father Jacobs, faster than the surrounding whites; he estimates 150 births yearly and 45 deaths. There is not much intermarriage, "possibly 2%." Some Indians have fallen away from the Church; there is a Methodist Church on the Hogansburg road, with a cemetery in which are gravestones of Cooks, Tarbells, Swamps and other families.

Outside of Indian participation in our wars, and arguments and agreements over lands — all of which will be dealt with in later chapters — there is little to be recorded of Indian activities in our Three Towns. Strangely belying the grim reputation of their famous ancestors — the ferocious Mohawks who cast such fear into all other eastern Indians that a single Mohawk brave is known to have walked into a Delaware wigam, brained a warrior and walked away unscathed — our St. Regis never attacked or even threatened their white neighbors. Any outbreak of belligerence was almost inevitably due to an excess of "firewater" obtained from the whites; and it usually vented itself in wild riding through village streets, whooping and yelling, with some firing off of pistols, and perhaps a few windows broken. One of the rare occasions when serious public notice was taken of disorder by the Indians occurred in 1942, when the town board of Fort Covington engaged Alex Scruten, a former prohibition agent with a reputation for sternness, to "take

time off to restore peace and order to Fort Covington," for which desirable service he was to receive \$4 per day (or night) of actual duty. The SUN commented that the "new-found wealth of big-pay jobs at Massena by some who like to "paint the town red" when they're in the money, supplemented by an influx of Indians from the Reservation . . . who imbibe too freely and unwisely, have created the unwholesome conditions of a wide open town. Street brawls, knockdown and dragout fights, drunkenness and disorderliness have become common. . . ." That situation was cleaned up in a short time.

When I was a student in Malone in the late 1890s, I spent as much time as I dared in the courthouse, listening to the trial for manslaughter of my fellow townsman, Sam Labrake, charged with having shot and killed an Indian, Celos Ransom. Sam, an amiable fellow not distinguished for either mental ability or physical prowess, was a constable in the town of Fort Covington, and in that capacity had been handed a warrant to be served on Ransom at the latter's residence on the Hogansburg road. Sam did not relish the assignment, and tried to evade it; but when he could not, he sought the company and assistance of a boon companion in his unwelcome task. To bolster up their courage, they drove into Hogansburg and obtained artificial support from a "few drinks." They then returned to Ransom's home, where Sam tried to hand his summons to the Indian. The squaw threw a kettle of boiling water at him; whereupon Sam fired through the door, unfortunately killing Ransom. The great impression I got as I listened to the trial was the obvious terror of the defendant, and the cumbrousness of the Indian language, shown by the long, involved Indian sentences in which the lawyer had to express any simple question, such as "When did you last see the late Ce-loss?" — that was how the dead Indian was always referred to. My recollection is that Sam Labrake was finally found guilty of manslaughter, that he then served a

brief term in Dannemora Prison, and, upon his release, hastened to leave our area, and spent the rest of his life in Massachusetts, far away from St. Regis.

In early days, the church at St. Regis had a bell, as old residents testified to Franklin B. Hough, the historian, when he visited the place in 1852. Wide publicity has been given to a legend that the first bell was bought in France, captured by the English while being brought over, and hung in a Congregational church in Deerfield, Mass.; that, when the Indians learned this, they sent a war party to recover the bell, which they did after massacring many of the people of Deerfield; that they brought the bell to Canada in easy stages, burying it for one or more winters near Lake Champlain; and that eventually, it arrived at Caughnawaga, and was jubilantly raised in the church, there, from which it was transferred to St. Regis.

Whatever basis of fact there may be for this narrative — and there is considerable, as shown by the career of Thomas Williams, a St. Regis chief, whom we shall meet again, — the discrepancies in date forbid our believing that St. Regis Indians had anything to do with Deerfield. But that does not prevent us from admiring and enjoying Lydia Huntley Sigourney's beautiful poem, "The Bell of St. Regis," which Hough reprints in full.

As might be expected, no accurate records of the number of Indians at St. Regis were kept, but, in 1852, Fr. Marcoux and other competent authorities furnished the historian Hough with figures, in round numbers, of the membership of the several "Seven Nations" of Indians in Quebec; and the list enumerates the St. Regis at 1100, including those living in Canada. The natural increase of the tribe was seriously diminished by several epidemics, against which they had little sanitary or medical protection.

In the spring of 1829, small pox appeared at St. Regis, and "swept off great numbers." The British government (of Canada) provided vaccination for the whole tribe. In 1832,

Asiatic cholera broke out, at first in a mild form, which the priest treated with laudanum and hot brandy, and reported that, out of sixty cases so treated, only two died. But the disease became epidemic, and was complicated by an accompanying attack of typhus fever. In eleven days some 340 persons were affected, of whom 78 died. All access to St. Regis village was guarded; but the disease did not spread elsewhere, not even to nearby Hogansburg. In 1844, cholera again struck, causing 29 deaths. In the same year, there were 500 cases of smallpox, of which 30 were fatal. Since regular medical attention has been provided, and the Indians have learned sanitary precautions and the value of more varied and wholesome diet, there have been no such scourges as in former days. However, they are prone to tuberculosis, which the severe winter climate assists.

The following figures indicate a steady and substantial increase in the Indian population, during the past century, although the accuracy of the figures for certain years has been challenged, and may not have properly recorded Indians working away from home at the time of the enumeration:

1855.....	413	1905.....	1216	1930.....	945
1865.....	426	1910.....	1249	1940.....	1262
1875.....	737	1915.....	1086	1950.....	1409
1892.....	1195	1920.....	1016	1960.....	1771

The Canadian figures show a like increase. Father Jacobs estimates that at present — 1962 — there are about 1800 Indians on the Reservation, on the American side of the Line, and a few more than that on the Canadian side.

The Indians were formerly divided into clans designated as those of the wolf, the big turtle, the bear, the plover and the little turtle; but these separations are no longer observed, and are practically forgotten. The same is true of their old pagan rites and dances. All the St. Regis profess Christianity, the great majority being Catholics. Church holy days are faithfully observed, particularly the feast of Corpus Christi, in early summer. A couple of generations ago, the "Grand

Procession" celebrated at St. Regis on Corpus Christi, would attract crowds of white observers from near and far.

The Indians, disinterested in the rivalries of their white neighbors, tried to remain neutral, but without much success. The British, after they conquered Canada, adopted a policy of conciliation with the Iroquois, whose past history had shown them to be the most dangerous of the tribes.

When the American colonists rebelled, Sir Guy Carleton, Governor of Canada, tried, first by bribes, then by threats, to induce the Indians at Caughnawaga to enlist to fight the Americans. The chiefs refused, saying that they did not wish to leave their homes to attack anybody, but, if the Americans should come to attack them — which the British warned — they would defend themselves. There was, however, one Indian who was definitely pro-American, and who left Caughnawaga to take an active part in the war. This man was A-ti-aton-ha-ron-kwen, later known for years by his English name of Louis Cook. Hough calls him "the greatest man that has ever flourished at St. Regis, among the native population." He was born near Saratoga about 1740, of a negro father and a Mohawk mother, and was very dark. He was a man of impressive personality, a powerful orator, and, above all, of remarkable intelligence and sound judgment. He was carried, when a child, to Caughnawaga, where he lived until the Revolution, being brought up in the Catholic mission, and, as a consequence, spoke French fluently, as well as Indian. It was said of him that, had he been educated, he would have been much more prominent than he was. Even so, he was the unchallenged leader of his people, and in all the conferences and treaties which we shall study in our next chapter, his name invariably appears as the chief interpreter, and his advice was always asked and often followed. He went of his own accord to Albany to make the acquaintance of Gen. Philip Schuyler, who was favorably impressed. After Gen. Washington took command of the American forces before Boston, Louis

Cook resolved to pay him a visit. In a letter dated Aug. 4, 1775, quoted by Sparks, Washington narrates the visit, and the information he obtained from Cook. He presented Cook with a gift, after the custom of those times; it is believed to have been a silver pipe, marked "G. W." This visit was the beginning of a long contract with the Continental Army, as the minutes of the Massachusetts legislature show. During the next winter, he brought thirteen other Caughnawaga chiefs to see Washington, and they pledged their allegiance. In 1776, Louis Cook received a commission in the American army, and during his later life, he was often referred to as Colonel Louis. He continued his activity throughout the war, and thereby aroused such bitter hostility among the pro-British Mohawks that it was unsafe for him to return to Caughnawaga. So, after the war, he moved to St. Regis, where he became a chief. When the War of 1812 broke out, he again became active, despite his age. But his enemies still pursued him, and caused his arrest at the American camp at Niagara; but he was quickly released. On this occasion, he showed a heavy pocketbook containing his commission, General Washington's commendatory letters, and testimonials from Generals Schuyler, Gates, Knox, Mooers and Governor Tompkins. Those documents later disappeared, and are said to have been pawned for liquor by one of Cook's worthless sons. Colonel Louis died in October, 1814, and was buried near Buffalo.

Two other men who played prominent roles in the early history of St. Regis were William Gray and Thomas Williams. Both were white men who spent most of their lives with the Indians and rendered them inestimable service. Gray, born in Cambridge, Mass., was captured by the Indians while fighting in the Revolutionary army, and was taken to Quebec. When released, he went to Caughnawaga, thence to St. Regis. He married an Indian woman and raised a family. He became very proficient in the Mohawk language, and acted as interpreter in nearly all the conferences

with our government officials, as described in our next chapter. The St. Regis voted to grant him a tract of land on the St. Regis river; the New York State Legislature confirmed the grant by an Act of April 4, 1801.

Gray built the first mills in what is now Hogansburg, which for several years was called Gray's Mills. Acting as a guide in the War of 1812 he was captured, and died in prison at Quebec.

Thomas Williams was the grandson of Eunice Williams, who was carried away from Deerfield in 1704, on the occasion of the recovery of the Indians' bell, and he was the father of Eleazar Williams, whom I discuss later. He lived most of his life at Caughnawaga, and in his early days was a scout for the British, but in the War of 1812, he declined to serve them and was declared "refractory." Some authorities say that he fought in the American army in that war.

He lived the rest of his life at St. Regis, and died there Aug. 16, 1849. For several years, he received \$50 annually out of the sums paid the Indians by the state; this would indicate that his services were considered exceptional.

Two oil paintings, which formerly hung in the church at St. Regis, had an interesting history. They were personally presented to a St. Regis chief, Torakoron (Tarbell) by Charles X, King of France, in 1827, when Torakoron was escorted by a Frenchman named Fovel on a visit to the king and to Pope Leo XII. Both the king and the pope were most cordial to Torakoron, and gave him also books, silver plate for the church, a magnificent rosary and money; but all of these except the rosary were stolen by Fovel, who disappeared in New York. The painting in the church represent St. John Francis Regis and St. Francis Xavier.

The Indians' only organized sport is lacrosse, which they originated, and which, along with hockey, is universally popular throughout Canada. They are excellent runners, have good coordination, and they pass the ball for distance instead of playing the short-pass game taught in our colleges.

4

LAND CESSIONS AND SALES

The land included in the Three Towns, as well as the Reservation, seems never to have had any permanent residents until the St. Regis Indians came, two centuries ago. Dr. Erl Bates, states that the first men on the Salmon River were "early dawn stone men a bone-harpoon-using people who followed the retreating ice cap northward." The second visitors were the Algonquin group called contemptuously Ad-ron-dacks, "bark eaters," by the Iroquois, because they used bark in their cooking. These people, of course, gave their name to the rugged mountains that cut off the area from the coastal colonists. Except for an occasional flint arrowhead or a musket ball imbedded in a tree, no evidence survives of their passing this way.

The Mohawk tribe of Iroquois Indians were the "eastern gate" of the Six Nations of central New York, and their "castles" were between what are now Syracuse and Albany; from that locality they travelled far and wide, ravaging and terrorizing. During the French-English wars of the eighteenth century, the Mohawks generally sided with the English, a fact that is admitted by political historians as being a great factor in saving the thirteen colonies from being conquered by the French. Nevertheless, the Mohawks were watchful and suspicious of their colonist neighbors, and had to be treated "with kid gloves," generously subsidized and extravagantly flattered, to keep them in good humor. It is recorded that in 1754, after a conference with the colonial officials in Albany, the Iroquois returned home with thirty wagonloads of presents. William Johnson, an Irishman who arrived in New York in 1738, became and remained for a generation the most powerful man in upper New York. Both he and his son, John, were knighted by the king for

their invaluable services, and, when the Revolution came, they succeeded in keeping the Mohawks loyal to the crown. The chief leaders who assisted them were Col. John Butler, Capt. Walter Butler, and the Mohawk chief, Joseph Brant. After the beginning of the war, the Americans decided to arrest Sir John Johnson — his father had died in the meantime — but he was warned, and succeeded in escaping through the Adirondacks to Montreal, after a terrible trip. He is said to have been saved from starvation partly by food sent to him from St. Regis. After the war, the power of the Mohawks was broken, and, with the consent of our government, the bulk of them moved to Ontario, where they were cordially welcomed by the British and given a reservation of good land at Brantford on the Grand River, a short distance west of Buffalo, where they still live.

Not all the Mohawks, however, took the British side. Zealous French missionaries came down from Quebec to work among them and converted considerable numbers to the Catholic faith. A settlement for these was established at Oswegatchie, near the present Ogdensburg, and was estimated at one time to include as many as three thousand Indians. It was known as La Presentacion, and was counted as one of the Seven Nations of Indians of Canada, with whom the authorities of New York negotiated treaties, as we shall see. Another of the Seven Nations was a community at Caughnawaga, about nine miles from Montreal. This settlement was established about 1667 for Catholic Mohawks, and is still flourishing. It has attracted wide attention in recent years as the burial place and shrine of Kateri Tekakwitha, called the "Lily of the Mohawks," whose canonization as a saint is now being promoted at Rome.

Caughnawaga is of special interest to us because it was the mother of the St. Regis settlement. It was from there that the Tarbell Brothers left, taking with them some 35 "of the best," and rowed up the St. Lawrence, as we have told before. When the Indian community at Oswegatchie was

dispersed by the British during the war, their place in the council of the Seven Nations was given to the St. Regis; and it is said that they were also admitted, after 1816, to the Iroquois Six Nations.

Down to the end of the Revolution, there was no question of the use of the land in northern New York. The Indians travelled wherever they wished, hunting and trapping. They had no conception of individual ownership of land, and firmly believed that their tribe had an immemorial right to its hunting grounds, which no one could infringe without the tribe's consent. How extensive their claims were, and on what grounds they held them, can be seen by their assertion that their sovereignty had extended from the foot of Lake Champlain southerly to Lake George or beyond; thence westerly into Herkimer county; thence northerly to the St. Lawrence River, and thence easterly to the place of beginning. The French and British had done nothing to discourage these claims. On the contrary, Count Frontenac, when he was administrator of New France — Canada — definitely recognized the natives' rights to their former hunting ground. And the Treaty of Paris, 1763, after St. Regis had been founded and before it was uncertain who was to rule it, stated, "The savages or Indian allies of His Most Christian Majesty (the King of France) shall be maintained in the lands they inhabit if they choose to reside there." In 1956, when land expropriation started for the St. Lawrence Seaway, the Redmen claimed exemption, but the courts ruled that "like any other citizens," Indians are subject to expropriation.

The colonial Americans, however, had far different ideas. They never admitted for a minute that the Indians owned the land or had a right to sell it. On the contrary, the first Constitution of the State of New York provided, in 1777, "that no purchases or contracts for the sale of lands made since the 14th day of October, 1775, or which may hereafter be made, with or of the said Indians, within the

limits of this state, shall be binding on the said Indians, or deemed valid, without the authority and with the consent of the Legislature of the state."

This sweeping restriction was supplemented by an Act of the Legislature, dated April 4, 1801, imposing a fine of \$250, plus imprisonment, on any person who should purport to buy or sell any land "with any Indian or Indians" except with the authority of the Legislature. These laws effectively cut off the Indians' opportunity to deal with settlers. The St. Regis did not wait to seek settlement of their problem of assuring themselves of secure possession of enough land to live as they had been accustomed.

Each year, beginning with 1792, deputies from the Caughnawaga and St. Regis travelled the long journey to Albany, or sometimes to New York City, to present their case and to seek a settlement. Their addresses, couched in dignified language, and not conceding the right of the state to confiscate their land, sound pathetic in that they clearly felt that they were helpless to do more than protest. Who wrote their speeches we can not be certain; but at times these displayed a certain indignant eloquence, as when they denounced a sale to the state by the pro-British Mohawks of 800,000 acres of land, which, the state said, was made by a "just people." The deputies replied "Had we done as these have whom you call a just people . . . had we sold off all our lands, . . . fled our country, took up arms and come and killed men, women and children indiscriminately . . . in short, done everything we could against our once nearest friends, then, according to what you say of these Mohawks, you would have esteemed us a just people, and therefore would not have disputed our claim." Again, "It is our earnest wish to live in friendship and unity with you, and we have always endeavored to persuade our brother Indians to take pattern by us and live peaceably with you. . . . We ask for nothing but what is our just due, and that we shall ever expect to get, until such time as you deny your own words.

. . . We entreat you only to look back and consider the privileges your brother Indians formerly enjoyed, before we were interrupted by other nations of white people . . . let justice take place between you and us, in place of arbitrary power."

To this the state's agent replied, "Without some further evidence, it appears to be scarcely reasonable in you to expect we should admit your claim," and declared that it was only to remain on good terms that they were treating with the Indians at all. The Indians, of course, could not produce any "further evidence," and had to reconcile themselves to take whatever the state chose to allow them. They seemed to have learned in 1796 for the first time that the Six Nations had already sold to John Livingston, in 1787, most of the lands over which the Mohawks were accustomed to hunt, and had given two deeds, signed by many chiefs, confirming the sale. The state even alleged that Col. Louis was a witness to this transaction, but he denied that. In any case, the sale to Livingston was contrary to the state constitution, being "without the consent of the Legislature."

Pressed to define what territory they wished to retain for their support, the Indians at first described their claim as "land to begin at the village of St. Regis, to run east ten miles on the latitude of 45°, then up the St. Lawrence from the village of St. Regis to a place called the Presque Isle, which we think is about 35 or 40 miles from the village, and that distance to continue twenty miles in breadth." They suggested also a principal payment of three thousand pounds yearly — the pound being then worth in New York about \$2.50. This suggestion being rejected, they made another, covering much less, on the following day. But the agents were inflexible, and the Indian deputies yielded.

The result was the Treaty of May 31, 1796, by which the Caughnawaga and St. Regis surrendered all claims to land within the state of New York, except for an area six miles square on the St. Regis River "to be applied to the use of the Indians of the village of St. Regis" — which has

since been called the Reservation. The tribe was to be paid 1,230 pounds, six shillings and eight pence as a principal payment, and "on the third Monday in August, yearly, forever thereafter, the like sum of 213 pounds, 6 shillings and 8 pence." This was the beginning of the "August money" which was continued to the Caughnawaga to 1844, and to the St. Regis to the present time. The payment was made at first at the mouth of the Chazy River on Lake Champlain, but was later transferred to St. Regis village.

In the conferences we have described, the deputies for the Indians invariably included Col. Louis Cook, Thomas Williams and William Gray, of whom Gray was the only one to speak and write English. The agents for the state were Egbert Benson, Richard Varick and James Watson. The state paid the expenses of the Indians who came, and presented them with simple articles, such as hats and shoes.

In addition to the six miles square on the St. Regis River, the state admitted the Indians' ownership of a mile square on the Grass River, where Massena is now, and of adjoining meadows along the banks; also, a mile square on the Salmon River, where they allowed a mill to be built; also, the right to have a ferry across the St. Lawrence. Including these additions, they owned about 25,000 acres. But within a few years, the tribe sold to the state the mile square in Massena and the mills thereon for \$1,920 in cash; 1,000 acres on the easterly side of the St. Regis River for \$1,750 and an annuity of \$60; a tract which they had previously leased to Michael Hogan, for which they took \$1 in cash, and an annuity of \$305; 840 acres in what is now Hogansburg village for \$2100 cash; the mile square on the Salmon River and 5,000 acres adjoining it on the west, for an annuity of \$1300; 2,000 more acres, to be cut into farms and lots, plus strips four rods wide to make roads through the Reservation, for an annuity of \$200; and they also surrendered their grassy banks and their ferry rights, to pay for a school. These sales reduced their ter-

ritory to about 14,030 acres — a far cry from the broad acreage which their ancestors used to consider theirs.

So, the Indians' claims to the land of northern New York were peaceably extinguished, though not to everyone's satisfaction; and when we contrast the history of our area with that of most other states, as, for instance, Kentucky's "Dark and Bloody Ground," we find ample cause for rejoicing that the Christian Indians of St. Regis proved themselves good neighbors, indeed.

There has never been armed conflict with them. They and the whites have travelled freely in each other's territory whenever they wished, there has been some intermarriage, as we have seen, and the state has spent money for schools and roads on the Reservation. In recent years, whatever restrictions were formerly imposed have been lifted, such as permitting Indians to buy liquor in licensed premises, and registering Indian children in public schools. This integration has come about without the public clamor that created such confusion in the southern states — a tribute to the good sense of both races.

There has been considerable agitation of Indian demands for compensation for losses alleged to have been suffered in various cases; there has been some litigation, and there are still pending some suits against the government. In 1895, the U. S. Court of Claims rendered a verdict for \$1,967,056 on account of land west of the Mississippi set apart for this state's tribes, which the government sold when the Indians did not occupy it. This money, locally called "Kansas money," distributed in 1905-6, amounted to \$179.33 per capita and, observers said that the Indians generally made prudent use of the sum, buying equipment and improving their homes.

The St. Regis desire for self-expression shows itself in various ways, such as the inter-tribal councils or "Pow-Wows" held for discussion of matters of special interest. A large Pow-Wow held at St. Regis in October, 1918, was reported in the Malone FARMER. Its chief purpose was

the installation of chiefs, or sachems.. All the Six Nations sent representatives, as did numerous Canadian tribes.

Each tribe sat by itself, and discussed each project brought up, and finally made it known through its own chief. As many as six different Indian languages were spoken. Besides installing 24 chiefs, the council debated other propositions, including a proposal to have an ambassador stationed at Ottawa; this was voted down.

The Albany Treaty of 1796 opened to settlers the whole area of northern New York, including all the Three Towns whose history we are to study. It was then uninhabited by whites. Most of it was covered with dense forests, and it was not accessible to any good market. This land had only nominal value, and, to be settled, it must be patented, surveyed, mapped and offered to settlers on easy terms. Syndicates of speculators performed this job.

One such man had already appeared — Alexander Macomb, after whom was named the famous Macomb Purchase, which forms the chief feature of the early maps of northern New York. Macomb was an Irishman, born in 1748, and brought to this country by his parents in 1755. He settled in Detroit in 1772, and there made a fortune in the fur trade. In 1785, he moved to New York City, where he married his second wife, a daughter of a fellow-Irishman, William Constable, with whom he associated in business. They engaged in many ventures, taking great risks in some of them. Such was the spirit of many in the newly-freed nation.

On March 5, 1786, the Legislature of New York created a board of land commissioners, empowered to dispose of unsold lands. The powers vested in the commissioners were so sweeping as to be almost incredible. This, I suppose, proves the extreme anxiety to get the state settled. The act provided that the land was to be divided into townships of 64,000 acres "as nearly square as possible," and these in turn were to be sub-divided into lots of 640 acres

each. As a further inducement, no doubt, to quick action by the commissioners, they were to be allowed to retain one-half of the proceeds for their services.

On May 25, 1787, ten townships — five fronting on the St. Lawrence River, and five directly back of these — were ordered to be laid out in what is now St. Lawrence County. This was promptly done, and names were given to them, eight of which are still in use. The lands in those ten townships were advertised for sale in the ALBANY GAZETTE of June 7, 1787, the sale to be held at the Coffee House in New York City on July 10 following. At this sale, Macomb appeared, and, with the help of various friends and employees, he bought nearly all the lots. Though he made little progress in selling them, he was not daunted, and in May, 1791, he bought from the commissioners, without any competition, all the “vacant,”— i.e., unsold — land between Lake Champlain and the St. Lawrence, as far south as the Totten-Crossfield line, which is the southern boundary of Franklin County. This is the historical Macomb Purchase. It embraced 3,670,715 acres, not including the six miles square reserved for the St. Regis Indians. The Purchase covered about one-eighth of the land area of the entire state. Macomb agreed to pay eight pence — about nine cents — per acre, one-sixth to be paid in cash, the balance in five equal annual instalments, without interest, and with a six percent discount on any sum paid before due. The liberality of these terms caused much public grumbling. But they did Macomb little good, for within a year thereafter, he was bankrupt, and was even sent to jail for a while for debt. His bankruptcy is said to have been caused by his participation in a project to establish a new bank in New York City, to challenge Alexander Hamilton’s Bank of the United States. He was released from jail, re-established himself financially, and continued to be a prominent figure in New York City. He enjoyed the esteem of countless friends, among them President

Washington, who for a time rented Macomb's handsome town house on Broadway, below Trinity Church.

As a result of Macomb's financial embarrassment, a number of his friends secured control of large parts of his Purchase. Among these temporary owners were William Constable, John McVicker, Daniel McCormick, Michael Hogan, Francis Harison, Hezekiah Pierrepont and Alexander Ellice. The first four named were Irishmen, the others English, or of English descent; all lived in New York, except Ellice, who was an English capitalist, and whose sons' deeds, on file at our county seats, scrupulously refer to him as "Right Honourable Edward Ellice."

William Constable was Macomb's principal agent, and made at least one trip to Europe to sell lands there. He was one of the first to engage in the China trade. He made a brief visit in 1805 to the area which now bears his name, and did not feel inclined to come again.

Daniel McCormick was a very wealthy man, who took a great interest in Constable and assisted him financially until Constable's death in 1803, and took over a share of his lands. McCormick was president of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, treasurer of the Grand Lodge of Masons, a member of the Chamber of Commerce, and an alderman.

John McVicker came from Ireland as a boy, and was under the guardianship of McCormick until he came of age. He later became a prosperous merchant, a trader with China, and a director of banks and insurance companies, and served on the boards of charitable and philanthropic institutions, and helped found the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick. The Breed family of Malone were descended from the McVickers.

These families intermarried; e.g., three of William Constable's daughters married, respectively, Hezekiah Pierrepont, James McVicker and James Duane; and deeds show that they frequently transferred wilderness land to each other. McCormick's patent is on file in Malone.

The Board of Land Commissioners, in accepting Macomb's offer of purchase, as stated above, directed the surveyor general to survey the purchase, at Macomb's expense. On the 10th of January, 1792, the surveyor general turned in his survey, dividing the Purchase into six "great tracts," of which Tract No. I embraced all of the present Franklin County, except for four townships on the east, which came out of the Old Military Tract. The entire area of our Three Towns lay in Tract No. I; hence, we are not concerned with the other five tracts.

The original surveyor of our area was Medad Mitchell of New York City, but he did not subdivide it into townships. This was done later, and a map is in existence, of which I have a copy, showing 27 townships in the county, each township bearing a name, presumably for legal use, since there was not a white man living there. The three topmost areas, along the Canadian border, were named, from west to east, Macomb, Carmachus and Constable, but the first two — Carmachus is a poetical version of McCormick — were never used. Besides Constable, the names of Moira, Bangor, Malone and Harrietstown, shown on that old map, have been retained; but no towns correspond to St. Patrick, Shelah, Ennis, Margate, Lochneagh, Killarney, Barrymore, Tipperary and the rest of the 27.

The bankruptcy of Macomb interrupted the sale, and prevented him from receiving the patents. On the 6th of June, 1792, he released to William Constable his interest in Tract I. On the 14th of May, 1748, Daniel McCormick applied for patents of the first and second tracts, and on the 17th of August, he received his patent, on file in Malone, to Tract No. I, which covered 821,879 acres. From time to time, various parcels of land were transferred from one to another of the group of speculators; but it is doubtful if any substantial sums of money changed hands. As late as 1834, 23,323 acres were sold in Franklin County for \$841.73 — about three cents an acre!

A box shown me by the courtesy of Mr. Maguire, assistant in the County Clerk's office in Malone, contained:

- a) a deed of Macomb to Constable, Jan. 7, 1801
- b) a deed of Constable to Ellice, Jan. 19, 1801
- c) a deed of Pierrepont to Ellice, May 20, 1822
- d) the will of Constable, May 20, 1823 (most of which, unfortunately, I could not read.) Pierrepont was the executor, and it is stated that Constable's children were mostly minors, with no issue. Thomas Ludlow Ogden, of the family from whom Ogdensburg was named, testified to its validity.

The St. Regis Reservation extended, as we have seen, from the Grass River to the Salmon River, and their ownership of the mile square on both sides of the Salmon was confirmed to them by the Treaty of 1796. They ceded this land to the state in 1816 and 1818 in exchange for an annuity of \$1500 "forever." The Indians seem to have been persuaded into this sale by Dr. John Hunsden, an Irishman who had been their agent for several years and had gained their great respect. The state rewarded his services by a payment of \$1200.

Before this, the Indians had leased to individual whites various pieces of land near the river at a rental of ten cents per acre per year. After the cession, these holders in most cases got clear title to their lands from the state, but their original leases from the Indians do not appear in the county records. We know, however, that the chiefs, in 1793, leased to William Gray land on the Salmon River for \$200 per year, provided he would build a sawmill there, which he did. Three years later, he assigned his lease to an Indian chief known as Thomas Araquente, who, in turn, transferred his holdings to James Robertson of Montreal for \$2,400. Robertson and three of his brothers continued to occupy the land for a number of years. They engaged Robert Buchanan to build a new mill to replace Gray's mill, which had burned. Buchanan had litigation with the

Robertsons over the terms of his lease, which was decided in his favor. He died in the village in 1829. Gray, meanwhile, had gone to St. Regis, adopted Indian ways and customs, and had become, as we told above, the interpreter for the tribe. He built a mill on the St. Regis River and started a store there; for some years the place was called Gray's Mills.

After the treaties of 1816 and 1818, Simeon DeWitt was appointed by the governor to survey the lands thus acquired in what is now Fort Covington. His report stated that the land was supposed to have been covered by the state law of 1802, and that there was an excess of 307 acres above the amount specified in treaty of 1808. The governor was directed to secure the release of the 307 acres for sale to those paying annuities. Most settlers availed themselves of pre-emption, and got their titles in Albany.

Two parcels were reserved by the state for possible military use. One of these is on the east bank of the Salmon, north of the present railroad track. It comprised 46 acres, besides the roadway, and since 1845, it has been leased to many residents, including, in modern times, the Dimond family, W. G. Kelsey, and the Salmon River Yacht Club.

The other tract, across the river, comprised only 14 acres. No effort has ever been made to use these for military purposes. The rent is only nominal.

The land in the mile square was surveyed in 1818 into 99 house-lots and 22 "outlots." The former were to be valued for sale on the basis of the estimated worth of the land alone, plus the appraised value of the "betterments"—improvements—if any. The value of the lots, therefore, varied widely. The lot on the west bank of the river where the electric light plant stood in the early 1900s, was valued at \$2,000 for the land, and \$3,120 for improvements. The lots between Mill Street and the river were valued at \$1,000 and the improvements at \$1,500. The outlots went for \$15 to \$20 apiece.

During the 1820s, there was a "boom" in real estate in Fort Covington, for the town was growing rapidly, and presently became the most popular town in the county. Obadiah Holmes and John J. Bailey were two of the principal operators. In 1823, they sold the lot on the southeast corner of Water and Chateaugay Streets, where the Mainville store is now. They sold to Jonathan Wallace the lot where Walter Bennett lives now.

The opening up of Bombay was due to Michael Hogan, a native of Ireland, who had been active in trade with the Far East and had married there a native lady, sometimes referred to as a princess. Princess or not, she evidently brought him a substantial dowry, for on Hogan's arrival in New York City in 1804, he had with him, 400,000 English gold sovereigns, equivalent to two million dollars — an almost unhead-of fortune for those days. He established a store on the site later occupied by the old Astor House, where he dealt especially in rare and costly merchandise. He became a ship-owner and importer, doing an immense business; but the capture of several of his ships by the British caused him great loss. For years he entertained on a lavish scale, and Scoville's "Merchants of Early New York" describes him as "the perfect Irish host and gentleman, commanding universal respect." He was at one time U. S. consul at Valparaiso, Chile, where he doubtless knew Bernardo O'Higgins, the founder of Chilean independence. Mr. Hogan died in 1833, and was interred in Trinity churchyard, from which his gravestone was later removed to Grace Church.

Michael Hogan bought 10,168 acres from the Macomb estate in 1807, and two years later bought 9,949 acres adjoining it from John McVicker. He paid approximately \$1.50 per acre for his first purchase, and \$2 per acre for the second. Whether the rise was caused by increased demand, the decline of commercial investments due to the Embargo of 1807, or to other causes, is an interesting

question. Hogan, by these purchases, became owner of the entire township of Macomb, which he re-named Bombay, as a compliment to his wife, who had been born in Bombay, India. A few years later, he conveyed the entire tract to John Oliver, of Baltimore, Md., but soon rebought it. He then mortgaged it to Oliver for \$42,000, and then again sold it to Oliver. His son William Hogan, who was agent for the Olivers for many years, left the county about the time of the Civil War to accept a government position in Washington, and died there. It is after this family that Hogansburg is named. Besides representing the Olivers, William Hogan also worked for Ellice, who, in 1828, prosecuted Albert Ayres White for trespass on Ellice Pond in Westville; Hogan testified in the case. On April 11, 1828, Hogan sold 22 lots, averaging 35 acres, on the St. Regis River, some entirely timbeered with beach and maple, for \$3.50 an acre. Others who acted as agents for the Olivers included Asa Hascall and William A. Wheeler.

Edward Ellice and his agents seem to have been active over a very long time. He is said to have donated 200 acres of some of the best land in Westville to the Man brothers, who settled in the town in 1802, and who rendered invaluable service there, as we shall see, later. Daniel Hughes, who came to the section from Ireland in 1822, purchased his land from Ellice. A deed given to Peter McDonald of Westville, on Oct. 5, 1835, names as Ellice's agents William Hogan, Barnet Blundin and John Blanchard. Forty years later, a deed on March 1, 1875, to Bridget Holden conveys 103.68 acres adjoining the above McDonald land, and is signed "Edward Ellice, by John F. Rossell, his attorney." This transaction was near the end of the original sales. It is likely that by about 1884, all of the Three Towns had come into legal possession of the settlers.

5

THE WAR OF 1812

The infant settlements along the Salmon rivers had barely begun when the settlers were made to realize that they were citizens of the United States; and the far-away existence of a fuller life in the centers of American activity forced itself upon their reluctant consciousness by the stern and sudden intrusion of war. It is quite probable that the issues of "Free Trade and Seamen's Rights" which impelled the belligerent Southern and Western Democrats to attack the British must have seemed to our frontiersmen artificial and unimportant. As to aggression upon Canada and its incorporation into our new republic, the few people along this border were far from enthusiastic. They desired nothing more than peace and the uninterrupted enjoyment of the market in Montreal for their few products. But our government decided otherwise. And, as nature decreed, an opportunity to strike at the British enemy presented itself at the very spot where our Three Towns were to be.

It is well-known that a good many Americans opposed that war, and that not a few of them showed their opposition by giving aid and comfort to the enemy who included their personal and business friends. But I find no evidence to cast a shadow on the loyalty and patriotism of any resident of our area. As far as their scanty numbers and limited means permitted, they took a creditable, if inconspicuous, part in the War. It brought them little benefit, but much suffering. And about its only permanent effect upon them was a better awareness of being Americans, and the bestowing of a war hero's name upon their principal town.

French Mills was the name then applied to the little hamlet on Salmon River, presumably because the majority of the people who lived there had come down from Lower

Canada — as Quebec was then called — to work in the Robertson and Buchanan Mills. A simple, hard-working, illiterate folk, without a church, a school or a road, they sought and obtained no publicity, and we are almost entirely ignorant of their names. But their bones are doubtless buried in our soil, and their descendants and successors of the same blood and faith have played a prime part in our history to this very day.

On July 8, 1812, — just three weeks after the declaration of war — a company of 90 men was raised in the county and was ordered to French Mills under the command of Capt. Rufus Tilden, of Moira. The muster roll of this company contains only two names that we know — James Campbell and James Spencer — of whom we shall speak later. A company commanded by Capt. David Erwin, of Constable — French Mills was then in the town of Constable — arrived next, and in its names we find the names of Seth Blanchard and Silas Cushman. The highest ranking officer from this area was Lt. Col. Alric Man. The soldiers of these companies, being militia, were not required to go outside the state, but on some occasions they did go into Canada, not with any great enthusiasm. The pay of privates who served a full six months enlistment beginning in July, 1812, was \$40.01 each.

Seaver quotes from letters written during the summer and fall of 1812 from French Mills by Lt. Charles McNeil, of Essex Co., who describes vividly, but with some humor, the hard conditions and experiences met by the troops. McNeil says they were ordered there from Chateaugay, and waded the Chateaugay River in three different places “with water up to their arms.” The country was all wilderness — thick forests or big swamps. Writing in mid-October, he says “the snow is plenty in this place, about our tents; my tent, or rather marquee, is most damned cold.” “We — the officers — board at the Widow Wires (“probably Mrs. William Ware”) with officers of the Troy Invincibles and

Fusiliers; we have our board at \$2.25 a week." The spirited young lieutenant died in the following December.

Capt. Tilden's company started to build a blockhouse for their own accommodation and for the defense of the border. It stood on the hills east of the Big Salmon River, as local tradition has it. The work was apparently half-hearted and poorly supervised, for, when British troops came to attack, more than a year later, the blockhouse was still unfinished, was roofless, and had to be abandoned; the invaders burned it down.

The nearest enemy force was stationed at St. Regis, where the British, in violation of an agreement that the Indians should be neutralized, had stationed a detachment. The American high command, now headed by Major Guilford Young, of Troy, decided to eliminate this enemy detachment. After one failure due to lack of boats to ferry the men across the St. Regis River, they succeeded in surprising and capturing it; this was in October, 1812. Major Young's report states that his force, which included Capt. Tilden's company, left French Mills at eleven o'clock at night and arrived back there at eleven o'clock the next morning, without losing a man. He said the conduct of both officers and men "deserved the highest encomiums." Four British were killed, and the rest — about 40 — were captured and sent prisoners to Plattsburgh. A stand of British colors was also captured. This would appear to be the first time that real war touched Franklin County.

But, alas for patriotic pride! No attempt was made to hold St. Regis, or to strengthen French Mills. Just one month later, a British force of about 150 surprised Capt. Tilden's little garrison and captured it, apparently without resistance, and without waiting for the arrival of Americans who hurried in from surrounding country. There is no mention of any soldier being killed or wounded. One civilian, however, was killed by the attackers as he stepped out of his house, gun in hand. He was Thomas Fletcher,

living in the house now occupied by Mrs. Gladys McCaffrey, village clerk of Fort Covington. Capt. Tilden and his men were taken to Quebec City, where they were well-treated, and soon after were exchanged for the same men whom they had captured at St. Regis. While prisoners, the Americans were carried on the army rolls as though still in service, and upon their release they received full pay until they were mustered out, soon afterward. In this affair, the British captured four batteaux and 57 stand of arms. They made no attempt to hold the place, evidently not thinking it strategic.

The U. S. War Department thought otherwise. During the next summer — 1813 — our military authorities decided to make a campaign against Montreal, which was reported to be, and in fact was inadequately defended. Two armies were available — one at Sackett's Harbor, under Gen. James Wilkinson of Kentucky; the other at Plattsburgh, under Gen. Wade Hampton of South Carolina. Both these generals were old men, veterans of the Revolution, 35 years before. Wilkinson had been an accomplice of Aaron Burr in his treasonable activities, and had been court-martialled for that, but escaped punishment. Hampton was a rich slave-owner, resentful of restraint or advice, and was prone to drunkenness, as his soldiers knew. These two men disliked Northerners, and had no conception of a northern winter. A worse selection could hardly have been made, more lamentable when we realize that there were available — except in rank — such outstanding soldiers as Jacob Brown, Winfield Scott and Zebulon Pike. Hampton was violently jealous of Wilkinson, who was technically his superior. At the critical point in the campaign, Hampton failed to obey Wilkinson's order to bring his troops to Lake St. Francis — just north of French Mills — to join in an advance down the St. Lawrence. Instead, Hampton ordered his men, who were stationed at Chateaugay, to return to Plattsburgh. He gave as his reason that his men

were raw, dispirited and sickly, and that his supplies were low. But when Col. Bissell, of Wilkinson's headquarters command, arrived at Chateaugay four days after Hampton had left, he found the road in good condition. He was told by Major Wadsworth, the commissary officer, that he had 45 days provisions of bread and flour, and a considerable quantity of salt meat, and that there were at least 800 fat cattle in the vicinity. But the damage had been done. Hampton's army, variously estimated at from 5,000 to 7,000 men, was not available for the battle at hand, and this may have caused the failure that followed. A short time later, Hampton was permitted to resign from the army.

Gen. Wilkinson, with an army of possibly 8,000 men, left Sackett's Harbor on Oct. 21, 1813, and moved down the St. Lawrence toward Montreal. It took them nearly two weeks to reach Clayton, and they did not arrive in Ogdensburg until Nov. 6. Their progress was watched closely by the British, who finally decided to attack as the Americans neared Cornwall.

The battle occurred on Nov. 11, 1813, at Chrysler's Farm in Williamsburg, Ontario, about 20 miles southwest of Cornwall. Only a part of the American force was engaged — possibly 1,800 men, according to Wilkinson's official report. That general himself was sick on board one of his boats, as he had been during previous battles near Kingston. The general next in rank was also sick. Our troops were commanded by Gen. Boyd, with Gens. Covington and Swarthout commanding brigades. A sketch of the battleground, reproduced in Cullum's "Campaigns of War of 1812" shows that the British were holding a strong natural position, with the river on their right and a black ash swamp on their left. Covington's brigade was stationed in our front line, in the center, scarcely 200 yards from the enemy. The Americans fought bravely, if not too skillfully, in a difficult environment. For the British and Canadians — with, probably, some help from the Indians — it

was a desperate and determined fight to repel invasion and to save Montreal and Canada for the Empire. It is commemorated by the beautiful monument erected on the battlefield, but moved to St. Lawrence Park in Morrisburg before the battlefield was submerged by the St. Lawrence Seaway.

The battle lasted about two and a half hours, and considering the force engaged, it was a bloody battle, with substantial casualties. The British lost 24 killed and 145 wounded; the Americans 102 killed and 237 wounded. One of those killed was a resident of French Mills. It is said that some of the American wounded were abandoned on the field. At any rate, the Americans returned to French Mills, abandoning the march on Montreal, which city even Canadian writers say could have been taken without much difficulty. In the outcome, the battle was an important victory for Canada, and is a source of pride to Canadians.

Foremost among the American casualties was Brig. Gen. Leonard Covington, who was mortally wounded by a musket ball while leading a charge at the head of his men. He was put on a boat to be conveyed to French Mills, and died either en route or soon after the boat arrived there. The general was given a military funeral with the highest honors available; Rev. Alexander Ross officiated. The body was interred on the hill near the blockhouse. Six years later the government ordered it removed to the military cemetery at Sackett's Harbor.

Gen. Covington was a Maryland man of a good family, and had served one term in Congress, 1805-7. He was about 45 years old at the time of his death, and had a distinguished military record. He had served under Gen. Anthony Wayne in the fierce Indian wars in Ohio, and had won the commendation of that outstanding judge, Gen. Wilkinson, who in his report of this campaign, wrote: "It is due to his rank, his worth and his services, that I shall make particular mention of Brig. Gen. Covington, who . . . while leading . . . the charge . . . fell where he fought, at

the head of his men, and survived but two days." The death of the gallant officer roused great sympathy and sorrow in the army and the community, and the blockhouse was named Fort Covington in his honor. When, just four years later, the time came to have a new township formed, to include the Salmon River settlements, application was made to call it "Covington." It was then learned that that name had already been taken by a town in Wyoming County, near Rochester. Our town was then named "Fort" Covington; and presently, "French Mills" passed out of use. The city of Covington, Kentucky, is also named after our general.

Gen. Wilkinson's army, transported by boats down the St. Lawrence to Lake St. Francis, and thence up the Salmon, arrived at French Mills on Nov. 13, and remained there in winter quarters until Feb. 13, 1814 — exactly three months; and they were months that none of those participating would ever forget! While exact figures are lacking, there would appear to have been about 5,300 soldiers, who quite overshadowed the little settlement, and who probably exceeded in number any other gathering that this neighborhood has ever welcomed, even to the present day. Inspector-Gen. Nicoll reported the full strength of Wilkinson's army, on Dec. 1, at 8,143; but this included the men left behind at Sackett's Harbor. A supply requisition by Gen. Wilkinson indicates 5,000 fed at French Mills; those then effective for duty, excluding sick and absent, numbered 4,482.

Gen Jacob Brown was the commanding officer, for Gen. Wilkinson was sick again, and spent much of his time in the hospital at Malone, except for a trip he made to Plattsburgh, and as far as Cohoes, in an attempt to get endorsement for a new plan which he had conceived for attacking Montreal; but in this he failed.

Gen. Brown made his headquarters at the building at the present corner of Chateaugay and Water Streets, which later became the Matthews Store. When that building was demolished in the summer of 1960, to make room for the

new bank, the historical marker placed there some years earlier was rescued by Harland Horton, our County Historian, along with various mementoes, such as hand-made hinges of wrought iron. The marker reads:

“This building was headquarters of General Jacob Brown, American Army officer during winter of 1813-14 in War of 1812.”

On Covington Lane is a marker which reads:

“On this site was built in 1812 a blockhouse used to shelter sick and wounded after the retreat from Chrysler’s Field in 1813.”

The troops were housed in three blockhouses or barracks — probably two on Covington Hill, as the height of land, rising to the east of Water Street, has ever since been called, and one west of the river. The buildings were built hastily, of green lumber, and the men complained constantly of suffering from the cold. The dreaded Canadian winter, whose expected approach had doubtless influenced the decision to call off the march against Montreal, now struck with full force. Dr. Trowbridge, of Watertown, who was present, wrote “the weather became intensely severe, and remained so until Jan. 23rd. The rank and file of the men were not prepared for this, and many fell sick. There were 1,400 reported sick in November; 1,767, on Dec. 1, and 2,800 on Dec. 31.” The military hospital was at Malone and doubtless was amateurish and overcrowded. It is believed that there was an improvised hospital in French Mills, on the site where the American House stood, later. In various parts of the village — e.g., in the old Baptist Church on Salmon Street — vents may be seen which some believe open into tunnels leading to that hospital; but there have been no excavations to confirm this.

The Malone hospital surgeon reported, under date of Dec. 8, that the blankets available were of inferior quality;

that three or four were required to make one patient comfortable; that the wine for the hospital was adulterated; that barley, rice, brandy and rum had been lost on their way to Sackett's Harbor; that for several days the sick had had no bread; and that oatmeal intended for poultices had to be used for food. The flour, made from sprouted wheat had soured, and it was suspected that it had been adulterated with gypsum. Many men incurred a kind of paralysis, with mortification of the hands and feet, and rheumatism, pneumonia, dysentery and diarrhea were prevalent.

The number of sick in the Malone Hospital had increased to 450 by Feb. 1; and when 200 more were sent from French Mills, rooms were urgently needed, but were found; "out of the number sent yesterday, four literally died with cold." All this is vouched for by Dr. James Mann, the hospital surgeon of this army, who in 1816 published a book entitled "Medical Sketches of the Campaigns of 1812, '13 and '14," liberally quoted by Seaver.

Despite these terrible conditions, Gen. Wilkinson continued to talk and write of again invading Canada. But the War Department, realizing at last his incompetence and vacillation, sent him peremptory orders to abandon both Malone and French Mills, withdrawing to Plattsburgh and Sackett's Harbor. Accordingly, on Feb. 13, 1814, Gen. Brown left French Mills with about 2,000 men and marched via Hopkinton to Sackett's Harbor. Wilkinson's army at the same time retired to Plattsburgh, requiring three days to form a line of sleighs to carry the sick, of whom six died on the way; twenty were left behind, too sick to be moved. It is probable that to the survivors of that ghastly winter, French Mills ever afterward suggested Valley Forge.

As the fortunes of war would have it, great quantities of supplies were arriving at French Mills, too late to be used. Teamsters were hired in Jefferson and Lewis counties, to convey flour from Sackett's Harbor to the Mills. They

were allowed nine days for the trip, and were to be paid \$4 per day and rations. Not all of the cargo reached its destination, but James Campbell, assistant storekeeper at the Mills, testified that, before leaving there, he sent away 1,400 barrels of pork and beef, and 100 casks of whiskey; 60 tons of hard biscuits, some of them damaged, were sunk in the river, and 10 tons given to the local inhabitants. Nearly all of what was left fell into the hands of the British and Canadians, who lost no time coming over the border, once our troops had left, to see what they could seize. The gunboats, 328 in all, that had been used in the campaign, were burned to the ice's edge to prevent their capture. For many decades thereafter, their hulls, preserved by the water, could be seen in the Salmon, and the dirt gathering around them, formed Gunboat Island, which Dr. Macartney in his book names as one of the landmarks of the vicinity.

Notice was given to the Secretary of War that the last of the militia troops of the North, the detachment at French Mills, would be discharged on Mar. 8, and that about \$15,000 would be needed to pay them. This was done, and so, for all practical purposes, the War of 1812 in this section was ended. No further raids from over the border occurred, after the short incursions in February, 1814, by a force estimated at 1,200 British regulars, 400 Canadians and some Indians, who carried away all the military supplies they could easily get in the frontier villages, but they lingered only two or three days.

Gen. Wilkinson was tried by court-martial at Cohoes, in 1815. He was charged with a) neglect of duty and un-officer-like conduct — eight specifications; b) drunkenness on duty — two specifications; c) conduct unbecoming an officer and gentleman — two specifications; and d) countenancing and encouraging disobedience of orders. He pleaded not guilty to the charges, and he was finally acquitted. Some time before, a mass meeting at Malone had

adopted resolutions denouncing in scathing words what was alleged to be the administration's neglect of this frontier.

Occupation of French Mills, it was estimated, cost the government \$800,000, with little beneficial result, its chief enduring memorial being the name Fort Covington.

How many local people served in the campaign, and who they were, is now difficult to determine. I have already mentioned Lt. Col. Man and James Campbell. Seaver reprints, with commendable zeal, the full roster of Franklin County militia who served at French Mills under Captains Tilden and Erwin. The names, recorded in the Adjutant-General's office at Albany, are almost all Yankee names, early settlers from New England. The names include Alpheus Chapman, Silas Cushman, Arthur McMillan, John S. Payne, Allen Danforth, Marcus Herriman, Samuel H. Payne, Silas Ware, Joseph Spencer, Ezekiel Blanchard, Alpheus Ellsworth and Noble Sexton. Sexton was a Revolutionary War veteran, as were Asa Jackson of Bombay, and Henry Briggs, but obviously, they came here long after the Revolution, and so our Three Towns does not claim any Revolutionary glory. The highest-ranking officer whose home was in this area was James B. Spencer, who began in 1813 recruiting a company to fight, and who evidently did good service, for on Feb. 1, 1815, he was commissioned by President Madison a captain in the regular army, 29th Regiment of infantry. His account book shows that nineteen of his command were from Franklin County, and that they participated in the battle of Plattsburgh. Thirteen of these were from the town of Constable, which then included all our Three Towns; but none of the thirteen bear names that we associate with later settlers, unlike it might be "Batease Bars," an obviously mis-spelled French name. Capt. Spencer lived his whole life in Fort Covington, died there in 1848, and is buried in the old town cemetery.

The close of the unpopular War of 1812, and the withdrawal of so many troops at one time left our frontier

community in desperate straits. There followed a period of hard times, aggravated by the unusual severity of the weather in 1816, "the year without a summer." Money was non-existent, commercial transactions were of the nature of barter. About the only commodity saleable for cash was potash marketed in Montreal, where the price had risen to \$300 per ton, but fell rapidly after the war.

In this desperate situation, some of the inhabitants succumbed to the temptation presented by the prospect of collecting on claims against the Government for damages alleged to have been suffered through the seizure or destruction of their property in the war. Fraud was revealed by an investigation in Washington. One David Jones had altered a modest claim for \$600 sent in by George B. R. Gove, so as to read \$6,000. Gove exposed the fraud, and as a consequence, the nefarious practices were checked.

A little later, the State of New York and the county were mulcted to the tune of some thousands of dollars through false claims presented for having killed wolves or other predatory animals. Bounties — shared equally by the state and the county — were paid (calculated) at \$20 for a wolf (one year it was \$40); \$43 for a panther; \$3 or more for a fox; about \$3 for a bear; and for smaller animals, less. These figures are for the years 1820-22, as quoted by Hough. After a state investigation which revealed much cheating, claims presented dropped to a very small sum. Seaver presents in detail the schemes used to deceive the justices of the peace, who may not have always required uncontestable evidence. He also cites a law passed by the legislature in 1822, which fixed \$1,000 the maximum that could be paid in the county in a single year, whereas \$31,369 had been paid on claims presented in 1821. None of our Three Towns is mentioned by name in the figures, but, doubtless, all participated in the claims. Incidentally, a section of Fort Covington lying near the Bangor line has always been called Wolf's Swamp.

6 EARLIEST SETTLERS — THE YANKEES

As we have seen, the Robertsons and their employees and successors, the Buchanans, who ran the mill on the Salmon River until 1829, were the first white men who actually lived permanently in the Three Towns, except for some of their Canadian employees, whose names are not recorded; these are mentioned by Constable, who came in 1804 and in 1805, as “(no) people (but) (those) belonging to or working at the mills.”

But, slowly, news of the frontier land trickled back to New England, where adventurous spirits, having pushed out from Massachusetts and Connecticut into Vermont and the Champlain valley, were still looking for cheaper land. They formed the bulk of our earliest settlers, and, beginning about 1800, they came here — very slowly, until after the War, and then more and more rapidly until, in the 1820s, there was something like a boom in the Three Towns, particularly in Fort Covington. A good many of them stayed only briefly before going on to Michigan or further west. Hence, many of the pioneer names are no longer represented here; but the chief families whose activities have made up our history are still well known here and should be chronicled.

Amos Welch came from Grand Isle, Vermont, in 1800, bought some land from William Constable, and built a saw mill on the Salmon River, near the present Westville Corners. He stayed here but a short time. John Livingston followed him, also briefly.

In 1801, Albon and Alric Man, brothers, who were expert millers — and Albon was a doctor — came from Vergennes, Vermont, to see if what they heard of the Macomb Purchase was true. They found that it was. The

whole countryside was covered with giant pine trees and some oaks and the rivers, which today are almost dry in summer, had plenty of water, both for power to run their saws and for current to float the logs down to the St. Lawrence. Full of enthusiasm, the brothers returned, the next year, with their families and quite a few friends and kinsmen. They built a sawmill in 1803 at Westville Centre, cut down the giant pines, and floated them in rafts to Montreal or Quebec. The best of them were not cut up, but were sold whole to dealers in Quebec, who could sell a single mast timber, 165 feet long, to the British Navy for \$3,000 or more! The brothers continued in partnership until 1810, when Albon withdrew, and thereafter devoted himself to his medical practice until his accidental death in 1835. He built in 1826 a commodious home in the eastern part of Westville, which remained in his family for a long time, Guy Man being its last family occupant. Near it is the old private cemetery used by the Mans. Albon's sons were Ebenezer, Buel H., and Albon P. Alric Man was much interested in military matters, and, as stated elsewhere, was prominent in the War of 1812. Ebenezer Man was an agent for Constable and later for Ellice until 1868, when he closed his agency. Albon Man Powell, a great-grandson of the original Albon Man, published in 1933, in Worcester, Mass., a series of articles entitled "The Great North Woods," recounting the deeds of his ancestors. He says that the man who interested the Vergennes folks in making their hardy trip into the Wilderness was no other than Nathan Beman, the youth who had guided Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys to the capture of Fort Ticonderoga. Beman had worked as a surveyor for Macomb, and had thus learned the value of the frontier land.

Among those who came with the Mans were Berrys and Hitchcocks, whose descendants spread far and wide through the Three Towns, and have played prominent parts there. Ebenezer Berry came to Westville about 1810, started a

farm and became "Squire Berry:" his farm is now owned by Stuart Vaugh.

Ebenezer's brother Hosea settled in South Bombay. Hiram (1851-1926) married Sara McElwain; their son John is still living. Ossie, whose widow is still living on the woolen mill road, was a son of Hiram, and lived for many years on a farm on the Bombay road, near the present Salmon Central School; his wife was Lillian Ward, of a family formerly prominent on the Snye. Richard Ward's daughter, Kate, was Mrs. John McKay. Former school commissioner Clifford Berry is a descendant of relatives who settled in Bangor.

Buel Hitchcock was a physician, and Aretus M., Myron and Alric, his sons, were all prominent in Fort Covington a few years later. Dr. Hitchcock built the house which Thomas Fletcher was living in when the British troops came in 1813, as told elsewhere. Aretus and Myron Hitchcock were millers and are believed to have built and lived in the two houses on Water Street, which were long occupied by John Hatton and Mary Lincoln; those two houses were both built before 1837. Aretus was under-sheriff in 1821. As late as the 1890s, a farm near the village on the Frye's Corners Road, was occupied by Loren Hitchcock; and his son, named Buel, I think — attended the Academy.

The Briggs family took up land in Westville along the Canadian border, developed prosperous farms there, and were long leading citizens of the county. Captain Henry Briggs, a Revolutionary officer, arrived soon after the Mans, and gave his name to Briggs Street and "Little Briggs Street," which names are commonly applied to roads, a schoolhouse, cheese factory and the cemetery where so many of the name are buried. Captain Briggs himself is buried there, with a very neat and legible inscription, recording his death as of December 11, 1828, and details of his war service. His son Christopher was an active and well-

informed man, who is quoted in Seaver's history as a local authority. He died in 1860, and is buried in the old town cemetery, Fort Covington. Another son, Winchester, was a miller in Constable, and his wife Nancy was a sister of Moses Cowan, whose son William spent his life in Fort Covington village. Among living descendants of the Briggs family are Mrs. Ada Hutchins Williams, of Olean, New York, and Mrs. Mildred Paddock Miller, of Pinehurst, North Carolina, both graduates of Fort Covington High School. Mrs. Rodman Nye of Olean is a close friend of Mrs. Williams and granddaughter of William Cowan. Another Briggs — Tillness — lived in Fort Covington, ran a mill, and built a house on the woolen mill road. He died about 1890. Levi Briggs lived for years at the corner of the Bombay and Hogansburg roads, just west of Fort Covington Village; he died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Guy Man, in Westville.

Ezra Stiles arrived in Fort Covington in 1815, when he was discharged from the army. There is a tradition that while riding along the road, he first saw Harriet Lee ("Roblee"), a girl, who, while a child, was stolen, along with her brother, from the coast of France; and a costly velvet dress and gold-buckled shoes long preserved in the Paddock family seem to substantiate the story. Col. Stiles was a leading man here for many years and held many offices, including Customs inspector and postmaster. He had seven children, the youngest of whom — Ann — married George W. Paddock.

Lindon King Stiles lived on a farm in the south part of town. His son Ezra married Agnes Stevens, and their son Arthur still lives at Fort Covington Centre.

Cyril and Ebenezer Hutchins and Jedediah Hastings came from Vermont in 1808, and settled in Constable, which then included Westville. Cyril's grandson, Allen Dana, was a trustee of the Methodist Church in Westville; he married Marietta Briggs.

Two brothers, DeWitt and Fred Hutchins, built adjoining houses on West Chateaugay Street, near the railroad track, after moving from the south part of town. They married two sisters of the Southworth (Suthard) family. Fred's children were Ada (Mrs. Williams), Leah and Edith. DeWitt's children were Guy, who is a rancher in the Canadian Northwest, Clarence, now living in Saranac Lake, and Allen, of Burke.

Seth Blanchard was of English descent, his ancestor Thomas having come to Massachusetts in 1639. Seth was born in Cheshire, Massachusetts in 1773. He married Lorinda Wales, and brought his family to Fort Covington in 1806. He died there in 1832, and is buried in a family cemetery on his old farm, about a half-mile north of Fort Covington Centre. His daughter Sally married Jonathan Wilson of Irish descent, but who came directly from Williamstown, Vermont. They had two children, Seth Wales Blanchard Wilson and Lorinda, who married Anson Merrick. Seth W. B. Wilson was born Dec. 24, 1818, and died Sept. 27, 1908. He was twice married — both wives were New England Yankees — and had seven children. Among them were Giles, Charles W., "Little Seth," and four daughters. Practically all spent their whole lives in Fort Covington. Charles married Hannah Griffin, daughter of Daniel Griffin, an Irish immigrant; but, despite the difference in racial stock, there were few couples who were so congenial and happy as "Chawles" and "Aunt Hannah." Their home was a center of jovial merriment, and its happiness was transmitted to their four children, one of whom is Mrs. William Twaddle, now living in Chateaugay. George Wilson, the son, lived in the house nearest the bridge over the east branch of the Deer River. After the death of his first wife, Lizzie Kelley, George married Mary Henry, daughter of George S. Henry. They established in the village the Wilson Lumber Company, dealing in lumber and building supplies. Mrs. Wilson continued this after her

husband's death; and it is now being successfully carried on by the Smith Lumber and Supply Company. Nellie and Kitty, the eldest and youngest daughters, married and lived in Ohio — Nellie to Arthur Dowd, an architect, of Cleveland; Kittie to Wallace Mann, a businessman of Ravenna.

"Little Seth" Wilson lacked his brother's cordiality, and his life was not particularly fortunate. He was twice married, and had one son by each wife, one of whom was Jane Craig. Seth professed to be a keen student of the Bible, which he quoted copiously. He was a familiar figure at the noisy "revival meetings" of the late 1800s, and sometimes expressed public repentance for misdeeds, whose consequences, nevertheless, he might balk at making restitution for.

Jane Ann, his sister, married Michael Costello, and they lived in a tenant house built for them by her father near his home. Their family consisted of three daughters and one son, James, who married Jane, daughter of John McElwain. John, who is spoken of elsewhere, had purchased the Richard Grange residence on Chateaugay Street, where the Cameron Farquhars live now. James usually spelled his name Costlow, and — remarkably for his father's son — served for years as a deacon in the Methodist Church. Jane was the victim of a crippling disease, but her sunny disposition conquered her affliction, and made her popular and beloved.

There was another Seth Blanchard, a son of Steven and brother of Justus. This Seth was a wheelwright, who had lost an arm in a sawmill accident. This misfortune did not sour his naturally jovial disposition, and his quaint and witty conversation, spiced with colorful exaggerations, was long quoted in the neighborhood. He lived in the brick house just south of the old cemetery on Salmon Street, and sold that house in 1888 to Patrick Donovan. The house was probably built by David Barker, an eccentric bachelor, who specialized in making wine from a particular kind of

rhubarb with a delicate skin, which was superior to the ordinary pie-plant grown in the vicinity. Mr. Donovan, on taking over the property, let it be known that he was not interested in making wine, and that all the plants except one row could be had gratis by anyone who would remove them. People came from all parts of the village and quickly removed Barker's valued plants. Rollin Blanchard, whose wife was Cornelia Russell, lived across the street, on the Fort Covington Centre road. Those Blanchards moved to Springfield, Mass. Their former home was occupied for some years by George Mainville, and, later, by George W. Connell, whose son Reginald is now living here.

The assessment roll for 1806 lists a Walter Blanchard as being taxed on \$250 realty.

Arthur and David McMillan were on the 1806 tax list. David's daughter was the first white child born in the town. Arthur served in Captain Tilden's company at French Mills in 1812.

Ezekiel Paine was the town clerk of Malone in 1808, also coroner. His name appears as an incorporator of the French Mills Miscellaneous Library in 1815, and he was one of the first town officers of Fort Covington. Samuel H. Payne, whom we shall talk of, later, is thought to have been his son. Daniel McLean was another of the taxpayers.

Luther Danforth was the son of Jonathan Danforth and Hannah Luman. He married, Henrietta (commonly called "Ritty") Ellsworth, daughter of Elijah Ellsworth, and spent his life in Fort Covington, where he died April 4, 1857. They had eleven children, two of whom were ministers. David and Luther Danforth were also taxpayers, the first of that name in the area. They were well-known millers, whom we shall discuss again. Allen Danforth was a fifer in Captain Tilden's company. Their descendants remained in the Fort all through the century. Amanda Danforth was a well-known woman, around the 1890s — one of the best of the travelling "seamstresses" who played

a vital role in the lives of the country folk, who depended on them to keep their growing families properly clothed. Amanda lived with her nephews, Basil and Luther, in a house on the Burns road, east of Fort Covington.

It will be noted that some of these pioneer names have disappeared from here in modern times. Not so the Cushmans, the Merricks, the Ellsworths and the Creightons, who have been for 150 years among the most prominent and enterprising of our people, and who have, fortunately, preserved most carefully their family records.

The first Cushman in the Three Towns was Silas, of the seventh generation of Cushmans in this country, beginning with Robert who came on the Mayflower. Silas was a son of Consider Cushman, a Revolutionary soldier, and Submit Newcomb, who lived in Greenfield Connecticut. Their old-fashioned first names were traditional in the family, and are found in use well down into the nineteenth century. Silas was born in 1778, and came into West Constable in 1802. In that same year he married Elinor Millard, whose people came from Washington County, New York. They had twelve children, six sons and six daughters. Silas died in 1857, and is buried beside his wife in Riverside Cemetery, Westville. His brother Ambrose came in 1804, and married Elizabeth Millard, younger sister of Silas' wife; they had four children. The oldest, Abiatha, married Elizabeth Creighton; they had seven children, of whom Ambrose Wells was the second. He was a marble-cutter in Fort Covington village, his home being on Center Street. He had two sons, Silas and Bert, and a daughter Ina (Mrs. Storrs of Canton, New York). Robert, brother of Abiatha Cushman, was twice married and had 17 children. He died in 1897, aged 87. His farm was just north of Deer River Corners. He had a son Robert and a daughter Grace, who were well-known socially about 1890. Albon Cushman, Silas' son, married Martha Stearns, a very practical but self-effacing woman. He died at the age of 49 leaving seven

sons, including Millard, Edwin, Adam and Norman, all farmers in Westville and well-known as excellent citizens.

Millard's son, Ambrose, inherited the farm on the Westville-Bombay road, commonly known as the Cushman Brook farm. He married Dorcas Stafford, who came up from the village to teach the school in the McQueen district. She was an aggressive, very intelligent woman, who, after her husband became an invalid, conducted the farm successfully, with the help of her husband's nephew Adam, whose daughter, a teacher in the Malone schools, now owns the place. An older daughter married George Chapman, the present supervisor of Westville. Another daughter is Mrs. Pendorf of Ballston Spa, New York. Dorcas's daughter, Katherine, was educated in music and later followed a business career in New York City. When her mother required her care, Katherine, who — almost alone among the Cushmans — never married, came back "home" to Westville; she died in Malone in 1948. In her will, she made a substantial contribution to Riverside Cemetery, where so many Cushmans are interred; but she herself is buried in Elmwood cemetery, Fort Covington. She is remembered as a gracious, cultured lady who was a leader in every good work in the community.

William Gillis Cushman, a son of Robert, spent his life in Fort Covington village, where he practiced insurance and real estate, and held various offices. He married a daughter of Dr. William Gillis, and her daughter, Miss Frances Cushman, who still lives at the corner of Chateaugay and Water Streets, in her grandfather's and father's block, still represents the family name in the town where it was long so numerous.

Ambrose Wells Cushman, 1851-1927, of the ninth generation of Cushmans living in this country, was a granite mason in Fort Covington. He married Alice E. Smith, and they had seven children, of whom only Mrs. Storrs is living. His second son, "Bert," became a steel company auditor in

Cleveland, Ohio. Bert's son, Robert Adam, is now principal of Huntington (Long Island) High School, and has a little son, Robert A. Jr., who represents the twelfth generation of Cushmans.

These are but a few of the Cushmans who played a big part in the life of Fort Covington and Westville since its earliest days. The genealogies show that Cushmans have intermarried into practically every Yankee family in the area, and into a few — LaFleur and Connors — that are not Yankee. The following families, not already named, have been connected with Cushmans: Clark, Wright, Briggs, Grant, Smith, Reynolds, Barnum, Ellsworth, Ridley, Armstrong, Agen, Baldwin, Ordway, Hollister, Stewart, Freeman — I may have missed a few!

The neighborhood of Fort Covington Centre, on both sides of the two roads which intersect there, has been "Ellsworth country" for a century and a half. The Ellsworth family, of English descent, had a distinguished record in New England, particularly in Connecticut, where they produced one of the leading framers of the Constitution, who also became Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Their patriarch in our area was Elijah Ellsworth, who was born in Enfield, Connecticut, in 1724, but spent his active life mostly in New Hampshire and Vermont. He was living in Charlestown, New Hampshire, when the first United States census was taken in 1790, but by 1800 was living in Rockingham, Vermont. He was a tanner and currier by trade. He was a very old man when he was brought to Fort Covington in 1807 by his son Orange. He and his wife are believed to be buried in Westville. Orange was born in 1783 and died on his farm in Fort Covington in 1853. His wife was Polly Winn, from Vermont. They had six children, all of whom were farmers or married to farmers, in this neighborhood, where Orange took up 600 acres of the best land.

The oldest son, Chandler, was born Jan. 1, 1808. He spent his entire life in Fort Covington, where he died, Nov. 22, 1888. A man of strict integrity and high moral principle, he was trusted by all, and was regularly sought to run for public office. In his earlier years he was assessor for sixteen consecutive years and justice of the peace for 24 years. He cast his first vote for Andrew Jackson and remained a lifelong Democrat, being twice his party's candidate for Member of Assembly. As a farmer, he was unexcelled; his farm buildings were called the finest in the county. He was very democratic, and rather averse to social display, sometimes to his family's distress. He was a good neighbor and a friend in need to many less affluent than himself. One of his last accomplishments was the construction of a handsome mason-built stone wall along the road from his residence — which he built in 1875 — to the Centre. The completion of that wall was celebrated in the huge new barn. Chandler was twice married — first to Sally, daughter of Jonathan Ordway; later, to Calista Fish Bentley, widow of Hial Bentley, a schoolteacher. By his first wife he had five children, including two sons, Hannibal and Sidney, among whom the farms were divided. A daughter, Ida, married Solon Storm.

Sidney Ellsworth built a new house on his father's farm, where he died, December 8, 1912. His wife was Catherine McEachren, who was born in Scotland, and was brought to Glengarry, Ontario, when she was only three years old. Mrs. Ellsworth was a charming woman, who made her home a center of attraction during her forty years of married life. Among her accomplishments, she sang with spirit the traditional Gaelic songs of her Scotch ancestors. Their family included five children, three of whom grew up. Myra, the eldest, became a trained nurse and spent many years as head surgical nurse at Cottage Hospital, Santa Barbara, California. After her retirement, she divided her time between Florida and her home in Fort Covington

Centre, where she assembled many beautiful curios and antiques collected in her travels. She died there on March 7, 1947. Anna, her sister, lived for a time in Rochester, New York, where she was bookkeeper in the Central Presbyterian Church. She married Dr. Henry D. Mayne, who pre-deceased her. John McEachren Ellsworth, her brother, born January 15, 1880, conducted the home farm until his sudden death on March 31, 1939. He was a man of tremendous physique and strength, equal in work to several laborers. A jovial man, who had hosts of friends, his death caused mourning throughout the whole neighborhood. He married Effie Jane, daughter of William and Eliza Armstrong. They had five children, two of whom live in the town. John M., Jr., has a farm on the Bangor road. Elizabeth married Warren B. Mount, of Three Mile Bay, New York, who now conducts very successfully the home farm and lives in the Chandler Ellsworth house, while Mrs. Effie Ellsworth occupies the Sidney house. Mrs. Mount was educated at Potsdam State Teachers College and has done research in geology and agronomy. She is on the staff of the Salmon Central School.

Hannibal Ellsworth, 1835-1917, received the southern portion of his father Chandler's estate, and lived on the Bangor road, where he conducted a large and prosperous farm, and also had a business in the sale of farm implements. A man of progressive views, he was responsible for the installation of the first iron bridge in the town. He married Sarah Jane Merrick, and they had ten children, the three youngest of whom lived in North Dakota. Anson H., the eldest son, 1862-1946, was well-known in business and politics, serving three terms in the state legislature. He married 1) Bertha Kelly; 2) Nellie Smith, who bore twin sons, Anson and Allison, who now operate the farm, specializing in Holstein cattle and producing strawberries.

Minnie, 1868-1942, married a neighbor, Charles Smith, son of Jonathan and Pauline Smith, and a man well known for his convivial spirit, or perhaps "spirits." Ida, 1873-1945, married John Kingston, who came from Brasher and bought the store at Fort Covington Centre; they later moved to New Mexico. Bert, 1875-1938, married Emma Brown of Bangor. They had six children, one of whom—Howard—is a farmer here. Chandler, another son of Hannibal, married Ruth Southworth, daughter of Egbert Southworth, of Cook's Corners; they had two children.

The other Ellsworth families lived east of Orange's land, on the road to Westville. Allen moved to Burke, where his descendants have since been prominent. They intermarried with the Hutchins, Hollenbecks, McKenzies and Drakes.

Alpheus Ellsworth married Elinor Clark, a Canadian girl of Scotch and Irish parentage. They had twelve children, the youngest of whom—Harriet, born 1834—married Moses DeGowin. Catherine married Amos Cushman. Most of the others moved away.

Curtis Ellsworth married Mary Cook, and they had four children. Alice the second child, married Martin Condon; their daughter Ada ("Addie") married Will McQueen. Elmer, Curtis' youngest son, took over his father's farm. Late in life, he married Alice Earl of Bangor. Mary, Orange's daughter, married Stillman Ordway and they moved to Wisconsin. Orrilla, another daughter of Orange, married Alonzo Ordway; they adopted a son, Clayton. Alena, the youngest daughter of Orange, married Albert Downer of Westville; they had a son and a daughter.

Sullivan, of the first generation—brother of Orange and Alpheus—married Hannah Blanchard, of Vermont; they had five children. Their eldest son, Ralph, married Evalyn Ryan, and they lived for a time next to the Chandler Ellsworth homestead. They had four children, all of whom

moved to the west. The next son, Orange, married his cousin, Margaret Ellsworth. Their son, Blanchard lived in a little house on the Bangor road, opposite the Deer River schoolhouse.

Jonathan Ordway took title to a considerable acreage on the east branch of Deer River, about 1809 or 1810. He engaged in lumbering on a larger scale than most of his neighbors. He was also a farmer, and practiced medicine. The family remained in that neighborhood until well into this century. Jonathan's son, Roswell B., married a Canadian lady and had three sons, William A. Walter B., and Nehemiah ("Nick"), and two daughters, Lovisa and Romelia. William bought the Simeon Wiley store at Westville Centre, and ran it for a few years. His son, A. Bentley spent most of his life as a United States postal inspector; his home was in Rockville Centre, Long Island, until his recent retirement. Walter B. Ordway conducted the general store at Westville Corners for many years; he died in 1954; his wife was Julia LeFleur. Lovisa married Leslie Freeman; their son Roswell conducted a store for a time in Fort Covington. Romelia married Charles Cushman; their daughters Estelle and Grace were music teachers and conductors, but not in the Three Towns. Romelius Ordway married Bertha Henry, and their home was the prominent white house near the bridge at Fort Covington Centre, Romelius died in Plattsburg in 1922.

George and Charles Frye — brothers — lived on the Westville-Bombay road about two miles apart; the junction of that road with the Moira Road is called Frye's Corners, as it is near George's farm. George, 1826-1906, was twice married. By his first wife — Abigail Welch — he had two sons and a daughter; the son, Fred, lived in the west. George had by his second wife — Jeanette Ross — a daughter — Pearl — who married Berton Reynolds, who, with his brothers, developed Reynoldston in the town of Brandon. George's son, Will, married Mabel Goff, and lived in Syra-

cuse. Charles Frye, married Harriet Rich, and had a fine farm and handsome house, picturesquely situated on the bank of Deer River, east of the Merricks. Their children were Jane — Mrs. Clinton Ordway — whose son John died, this year in Hartford, Connecticut; Ada (Mrs. George Henry), whose younger daughter is Mrs. David Urband of Albany; and Helen (Mrs. William Davis), who had eight children; of these, Hilda (Mrs. Holden) lives in Fort Covington; Bessie (Mrs. O. L. Urband) and Herman both live in Westville.

On the same road — east of Charles Frye — lived Thomas Brill, who, after the death of his wife, Elizabeth Blanchard, moved into the village and boarded with Mrs. Almer Longley until his death in 1932. His son Verne, who inherits his father's jovial disposition, still lives on the old Longley farm, and his son on the former Charles Wilson farm.

The first Wrights of Westville came, like other pioneers, from Salem, Washington County. They were children of Samuel Wright, who came from County Antrim, Ireland, about 1775, established his sons as farmers in Washington County, then started to return to Ireland, but was lost at sea. The sons all moved to the Franklin County border, where Joseph bought a section of land in what is now Westville, on November 19, 1802.

Joseph and Thomas Wright built a sawmill as early as 1804. Thomas Wright married Nancy Creighton in 1812, and their son Alexander was born in that year. The family home was on the farm now owned by George Chapman. Alexander married Susan Chapman, a grand aunt of the present George Chapman. They had three children, one of whom, Margaret, married Colburn Grant. Margaret's brother David married Belle Babcock. Their son, David, is the last survivor of his family.

Joseph Wright had three sons and two daughters. His granddaughter Mary married William Gillis and their

daughter Bernice married William Minkler, who recently died in retirement — from the Customs service — at Rouses Point. The Wrights were mill wrights and carpenters. Their old homes and other buildings that they built are still in excellent condition. They built the present Presbyterian Church in Fort Covington. Among Joseph's descendants are: Ruby Edna Pierce, of the Palm Beach, Florida, DAILY NEWS for 45 years; also the late Frederick A. Wright of Malone. Fred Wright (1880-1962) was born in Fort Covington, but lived mostly in Burke and Malone. He served for nearly twenty years as superintendent of Franklin County highways.

Thomas Wright built the brick house now occupied by George Chapman. It passed to his son John C., 1848-1930, who married Marian Burns. Their children still living are John, of West Winfield, a veteran teacher, Marian (Brown), George of Deland, Florida, and Ruth (Mrs. Earl Rowley) of Westville Centre. William, youngest son of Creighton (his mother was Prudence Briggs) married Mary Hanna. The family moved to Ogdensburg in 1905, where William died in the 1940s at the age of 94.

William Chapman was born in December, 1787, and was married on February 26, 1810. His son Robert was born in the same year. Four other sons and three daughters followed. One of the sons was John B., 1824-1902, who built a handsome brick home on his farm at the junction of the Bombay and Bangor roads south of Fort Covington. His wife was a daughter of John Quaw, and lived to be 90. Their daughter Emma (Howard) inherited her father's forceful characteristics. She spent her later years in a house on Pike Street, where she died in 1922.

East of Fort Covington village lived Hiram and George Burns, who owned much property along the Canadian line, and were influential men in the town. Their father, John L. Burns, came in 1810 from Rumney, New Hampshire, and when his wife died, he returned there, and brought back

her sister, Mary Jane Jones, for his second wife. She was the mother of Hiram, who was born in 1830 and died in 1910. His wife was a lady from Lachine, Quebec. They had four daughters, who married away. George Burns married Mahala Austin, of St. Lawrence County; they had two daughters — Marion Burns Wright of Westville, and Francis Burns Bosley, who died in the house now occupied by Ken Stuart; and one son, William, of Westville.

A neighbor of the Burnses was William H. Ryan, who is recorded as having sold to Patrick Holden "that part of the swamp lot not already sold to Hiram Burns and Allen McLean." South of them, on Creighton Street, lived a Mrs. Ryan. These Ryans were very early settlers, and probably did not come from Ireland. One of the name is buried in the old town cemetery. William H. Ryan's son, Judson E., who died in 1909, was a well-known and well-liked farmer, who spent most of his life on the farm which his father had acquired in 1858, a mile west of the village. Mr. Ryan bought the former Jacob Hollenbeck farm, and moved there, two years before his death. He married Martha J., daughter of Samuel McElwain. One sister was Mrs. Daniel Grant.

James C. Ryan, married to Harriet Longley, lived on one of the Creighton farms which had two excellent houses. After Mr. Ryan's death, his widow continued to live there until her death in 1908.

Norman Bean was born in Vermont in 1830. He married Martha Longley, and they lived on various farms in Fort Covington, and also for some years in the neighborhood of Skerry, where one of their daughters married Newton J. Davis. Mr. and Mrs. Bean returned to Fort Covington, to take over the Ryan farm after Mr. Ryan's death, and they continued to operate it until Mrs. Ryan's death. They then moved into the village, and spent their last days in the former Charette house on the Fort Covington Centre road. They were an outstanding example of the old-time Yankees, even in their speech; to them industry and honesty were

automatic. As might be expected, they were renowned as maple sugar makers.

On the Burns road also lived Solon Storm. His son David moved to the west, and prospered there. He revisited the Fort in later years. Gertrude Coggin was an adopted daughter of Solon. Harry Storm continued in farming in the vicinity.

No man did more for early Fort Covington than did George B. R. Gove, a man of intelligence and driving energy. He was of English descent, was born at Goffstown, New Hampshire, where his father was a doctor, on December 19, 1778. He married Hannah Woodbury in 1804. Her brother Jesse later ran a trip-hammer mill. Gove came to French Mills before 1810. In 1825 he was assessed for ten acres of land in the southwest corner of the village mile square, and 110 acres in farm lot 31, directly south of it. There, on the Little Salmon, he built a sawmill, a grist mill, and also had a brick yard. The grist mill was operated continuously until well into the present century, the last miller being Archie McNair in 1916. In the 1820s, Gove had a store in the village, which is advertised in the FRANKLIN TELEGRAPH. It was said of him that he and one other were the only men in town who had any ready money in the hard times. He built — in 1835 — the brick house on top of the hill on the west side of Gove Street, then called Stark Street. There he lived until after his wife's death in 1861. His daughter Mary and her husband Henry A. Paddock lived with them, and their son Frederick G. Paddock was born in that house. They moved to Malone in 1864, where Mr. Gove died the following year. At his request, he was buried in Fort Covington Cemetery.

George B. R. Gove held practically every office in the gift of his fellow-citizens. He was the first man to represent Franklin County separately in the legislature — in 1824, and again in 1849. He served seven different terms, not consecutively — as supervisor; was county clerk, collector of

customs, and commissioner of the United States deposit fund. He is said to have had a fiery temper, but quick to be reconciled.

Warren L. Manning was a merchant whose store was on the site of the present Wayne McElwain store. Always a favorite spot for a store, in later years it had many owners, notably the Dempseys, father and son. Mr. Manning, a zealous Methodist, was principal promotor of the church built in 1836, donating the bell.

William W. Herrick, 1794-1826, settled at Fort Covington during the early years and married Mary Ewing. He ran a tannery on the east side of the river. He had three sons, one of whom, George Washington, married Adeline Ballard. They lived in Montreal for a time, where their children went to school. One daughter, Alma, a graduate of McGill Normal, taught school in Fort Covington. Another married William G. Kelsey. Walter Herrick was village president for several years.

Charles Marsh was in trade in 1820. For a time he was prosperous, and practically supported the Presbyterian Church. He lived in a stone house on Water Street, just above the mouth of the Little Salmon. The house was built in four sections, the newer ones leading down to the river. It was known as "Marsh's castle." Mr. Marsh became bankrupt about 1850.

Benjamin Raymond was a mill wright by trade, and built many mills in the vicinity. He also built houses and speculated in real estate. He moved to Malone in 1854.

Job Congdon was in active business in the 1830s and his home was one of the social centers of the village. His wife and daughters were musical, and some of their descendants, now living in the west, possess portraits and other antiques, dating from that time. Job's son, Henry Clay, was in business here for many years; chiefly in the pharmacy located at the southeast corner of Chateaugay and Water Streets. His home was on the north side of

Chateaugay Street, just beyond the railroad track. Henry Congdon was town clerk as early as 1866, and was postmaster under the Benjamin Harrison administration.

Allen Monroe Lincoln (1787-1869) came to Ft. Covington from Massachusetts with his wife, Frances Davis, and four children. He had a tannery close to that of Herrick. Connected with it was a shoe shop and a store, which did a large business with Canadians. Mr. Lincoln became wealthy; his estate was probated at over \$100,000.

His son, Allen Monroe the 2d, continued the tannery for a good many years, but it was finally torn down. Mr. Lincoln is buried in the old cemetery; but the stone is only partly legible. Allen 2d died in 1891, his widow, Sophie Denio, in 1903. One daughter married Daniel B. Wyatt, and lived in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Another married Grenville Whitney, who made custom furniture in Fort Covington. The "Lincoln house" on Covington hill is one of the landmarks in the village. It was occupied for quite a few years by Abram S. Creighton, husband of Estelle Lincoln, Allen M.'s daughter. Allen M. Lincoln and his wife died in the old house on the west side of Water Street, setting back from the river, where Robert Wilson lives now.

Benjamin Sanford had a grist mill as early as 1823. He built the house where Cameron Farquhar lives now.

John Drum gave his name to Drum Street, as it is still called. This was, of course, the route from St. Regis, and the British troops came that way when they entered the hamlet in 1812, to surprise and capture Captain Tilden's troops.

Ebenezer Stevens was one of the earliest arrivals. One account attributes his death to the year 1798, but this seems unlikely. His grandson, Stiles Stevens, who never married, was one of Fort Covington's foremost citizens in the second half of the 19th century. He was a farmer on Drum Street, where his father, Jonathan, had a mill on the Pike Creek. Stiles enjoyed everyone's confidence and held numerous offices.

Samuel and Jonathan Rich lived west of the village, and there was a large family.

Roswell Bates and Ora Paddock were doctors, and will be discussed in our chapter on professional men.

Daniel Noble had a tannery and shoe shop on the east bank of the river, near the present upper bridge. The little enlargement of the Salmon just around the bend where the river turns east, appears on the maps as Noble's Bay.

John McCrea was deputy collector of customs at one time. He lived in the house later occupied by T. T. Kimball. Other McCreas were here at the time of the War.

Stephen Van Rensselaer Tuthill, whose first names suggest possible connection with Hudson Valley aristocrats, was a leading merchant at the time of the Civil War.

Thomas Mears, from Hawkesbury, Ontario, came here in 1826. He had been active in Hawkesbury for years in lumbering and other industries, sometimes with great success, and had been a member of the provincial parliament. His children received an excellent education and stood among our best informed citizens. Thomas S. and Hamlet B., sons of Thomas, obtained a lease on some land on the bank of the Salmon, and in about 1840 erected a sawmill there, near the handsome pine trees which have ever since been called the Mears Grove. The stone house was called Idylwild. When Hamlet died in 1887, his obituary notice commented feelingly on his popularity due to his unassuming helpfulness to all. Mrs. John Cameron was his sister.

Amos Emerson (1770-1838), here as early as 1816, owned land just west of the village line, and on the Moira road. John Emerson owned 50 acres, and Oren, 15 acres near John, and other land here and in Hogansburg, all recorded in the 1825 tax list. Their gravestones are in the old Salmon Street cemetery.

The same cemetery contains many graves of Herrimans, an old family who intermarried with the Congdons. Miss Marion Chastine Ruddick, a descendant, believes they

were of French Huguenot descent, who left Virginia for Canada, at the time of the American Revolution; the name "Chastine" is a Herriman name. Miss Ruddick had their elaborate family Bible, with an inscription "from Alaric Herriman to his mother." I have been furnished lists of names and dates of Herrimans, but no particulars as to their occupations or residences. The dates of birth range from 1788 to 1836; dates of death from 1839 to 1863. The marriages were with members of the Sears, Hogle, Brown, Blood (S.E.), Payne, Stark and Congdon (H.C.) families.

Daniel W. Church came to French Mills in 1809 to work for Mr. Hogan, and remained in the vicinity until about 1818. He made the first survey of Bombay, and built the first mill on the Little Salmon River, back of the (later) Sand Hill cemetery. He is believed to have lived in French Mills and to have built the house on Covington Street, where Wat Parker lived a few years ago. He was an active surveyor as well as a builder, and probably surveyed the land all around here, and built Gove's mills mentioned above. He died in Morristown after 1858.

Jabez Parkhurst and Jonathan Wallace were Fort Covington's leading lawyers for years, and held numerous offices. They will be discussed in another chapter.

William Ware owned the farm north of French Mills, where the Dimond family lived, later. He died in or before 1809, and his widow served boarders, including army officers during the War.

I have examined the assessment roll for Fort Covington for 1829, which is in the town hall. It consists of ten well-preserved sheets, very legibly hand-written, and attested by James B. Spencer, Isaac Mosely and Henry Denio. It lists 390 taxpayers, with their assessments and the amount of each one's tax, at one and one-half per cent. The important taxpayers, with taxes, included: Jno. Bundy, \$18.00; Robert Buchanan, \$17.88; Roswell Bates, \$13.72; Seth Blanchard, \$22.50; Job Congdon, \$11.95; Harvey Clark, \$13.25;

Luther Danforth, \$18.00; George B. R. Gove, \$18.00; Aretus Hitchcock, \$27.15; Henry W. Herrick, \$10.75; Jacob Hollenbeck ("betterments") \$4.50; William Hogan, \$41.87; Philip F. Jones, \$7.14; Robert Johnston, \$15.24; Allen Lincoln, \$29.10; Reuben W. Martin, \$12.00; Daniel Noble, \$33.69; Jno. Ordway, \$11.25; Jabez Parkhurst, \$22.71; Daniel Phelps, \$19.13; Jno. Rich, Sr., \$10.44; Benjamin Raymond, \$15.00; William Ryan, \$3.38; Benjamin Sanborn, \$24.73; James B. Spencer, \$12.71; David L. Seymour, \$28.50; Jno. Wallace, \$24.50. The list of property owners, was almost exclusively composed of Yankees, as former New Englanders of English descent were called.

The early records of Bombay, including Hogansburg, are almost entirely lacking. Much of what there was was destroyed in several serious fires. According to Seaver, "immigration did not begin in any volume until about 1822 . . . ten or twelve years later, nearly all of the original settlers had removed to Michigan . . . selling out to other arrivals, mostly from Vermont, and at about this time a good many Irishmen also came."

James Luther and Jesse Clark were merchants at Bombay Corners in 1824. William G. Moseley had the first frame tavern. The Reynolds family, who have always been prominent in Bombay, arrived here in 1824, when Benjamin Reynolds came from Rutland, Vermont. He located first in the Reservation, later at Cold Springs. He was followed by his son Jacob, who spent his life in the town, as one of its foremost citizens. His son Orson was born in Bombay, but is best remembered as the founder of Reynoldston in the Adirondacks, and the large lumbering business there. Ernest G. Reynolds, born in 1853, was active in business and politics and initiated a railroad into the Adirondacks, which is described elsewhere. He built a fine house in the Corners, which is still in the family. His daughter, Mrs. Beulah Spinney, lives in the south, but visits Bombay each year. His son Arthur who died in 1958, left sons, but they

have not lived in Bombay. His widow still lives there.

Henry Uttley cleared 100 acres of wild land in 1826, and sowed it to wheat. Early settlers on the east road, leading to Fort Covington, were Silas Rolfe, Joseph Elliott (who came in 1819), O. Day, Alexander Sears, Thomas White, and a Mr. Parrs.

On the road leading west from the Corners a Revolutionary soldier, Asa Jackson, settled. His son, Eliphalet Jackson, was still living there a few years ago. At Cold Springs was another Revolutionary veteran named Howe. James and William McRoberts, early tanners and shoe makers occupied later on, the J. G. Reynolds property.

In Hogansburg, in addition to William Hogan, pioneers recorded were Parsons Taylor in 1816, and one Clendenning. A little later, J. S. Eldredge, who was elected to the Assembly in 1839-40, and the Fulton and Reynolds families were among the principal citizens. Other early settlers were Benjamin Harrington, who built the first tannery; Alpha Burgat; Aaron Broadwell; James and Robert Campbell, Isaac Seymour, G. S. Mills and Lemuel Warren.

South Bombay was settled at an early date. The first mill there was owned by a family named Babcock. John Moore was a pioneer there and owned a mill. He was called "John Moore, sawyer" to distinguish him from "John Moore, farmer," who lived just south of Bombay Corners. He was the grandfather of Mrs. Bessie Sweet of Fort Covington, whose daughter is Mrs. Wesley Russell. Minnie, daughter of Tom Moore, married Almadus Smith. Their sons live in Fort Covington, and two daughters of the family are Mrs. Annabel Kohout and Mrs. Anson Ellsworth.

Jonathan Smith 1st married Nellie Gray, who lived to be 102. Their grandchildren included Mrs. Ambrose Cushman and Mrs. Duncan Wright.

Such were our pioneers — before 1830 — of whom I have been able to get information.

7

THE FRENCH-AMERICANS

The booklet put out by the Franklin County Extension Service Association of the Agricultural Department for the years 1961-65 reports (page 10) that "the predominant race is of French descent." No opinion is stated as to how long this has been true, but I believe it has held true in the Three Towns during a long period, and has been helped by the constant migration away from the district.

It is true that our early records, official and otherwise, would not give that impression to a casual reader unacquainted with the people. But the contrary impression is due to the fact that, during most of the nineteenth century, illiteracy was quite common among the poorer residents; and, since they did not write, and, since so many of them had not property enough to rank high in the tax lists, or to qualify as jurors, their names rarely got into the records. Their illiteracy is not exceptional, nor was it held as a reproach in a time when the wife of a leading Yankee landowner in Fort Covington "made her mark" in co-signing a deed given by her husband in 1852.

We have already seen that Fort Covington was known as French Mills down to 1817. William Constable noted that no white men were living there in 1804-5, except "the Frenchmen working the Robertson mill(s)," whose names he was not interested in. Hurd related that three Frenchmen named Beron or Bourget owned the first mills erected since 1805; who were succeeded by one Soupfacon and by Jean Baptiste de Parisien, who left in 1816. The name Beron strongly suggests the Beros, who have always been, and are today, probably the most numerous and influential family in the Hogansburg area, intermarrying commonly with

those of other racial stock, and having their name taken also by Indian neighbors.

Before presenting as much as I have been able to gather of the story of these Americans of French descent, I feel that some explanation should be offered on the wide variation in the French names found here. First, we find that a goodly number of the families have retained their ancestral spelling and pronunciation, or very near it. This applies to the families of Taillon, Bero, LeFleur, Boyea, Rouselle, Lacombe, Lafleche, Laporte, Mainville, DeGowin, Fleury, Charette, Chatland, Gratton, Martin, Bouchard and Foisy.

Second, there are families who are commonly known by names that are corruptions of the original French spellings, or English equivalents of the French words. These include Bashaw, Baska, Boadway, Brockway, Bennor, Caskanett, Demers, Derouchie, Ghostlaw, Jock, Labrake, Mayhew, Montroy, Pond, Premo, King, (LeRoi), Santann, Ledger, Yaddow, Rushlo, Lenno, et al.

Third, there are families of predominantly French stock which through long custom are known by English names. These include Allen, Blair, Gardiner, Gordon, Hence, Brown, Mitchell, Oakes, Perry, Turner and Bean. This is a situation not confined to any area. I knew a scholarly, though self-educated, Irish printer in New York who told me that when he first went to school in County Leitrim, his English teacher put down his last name as "Driver," because there were so many O'Farrells there, besides his father, who was a coachman; and it was not until the boy was fourteen years old that he learned of the Irish language, in which he later became proficient.

Finally, there are a few indistinguishable names, such as "Flip" and "Kissey" which were formerly common in the southern part of the towns, and which, it has been suggested, may have been substituted for Lepage and Viau.

In writing the names of French residents, I make it a practice to use the form commonly known in this area, fol-

lowing it the first time, when used, with the probably correct French name, if that is different from the one commonly used.

No account of Hogansburg would be complete without giving ample credit to the Beros (Bereau, Beron) who have been there since earliest days. A Baptiste Bereau is on the military roll of 1812. Henry Bero — wife was Rose Bero — lived at Bradley Corners long before the Civil War. From there, the family moved to the Sutherland property, now owned by Hugh Foy. There were eight children, of whom one, Mrs. George Davis of Boston — is still living. One of the sons was John W., who held the following positions: assessor, six years; tax collector, four years; deputy sheriff, twenty years; deputy U. S. marshal, six years; school trustee, 24 years, in district No. 2 between Bombay and Hogansburg; inspector and collector of customs, 32 years; and custom service in New York City, two years.

Mr. Bero remembered Eleazar Williams, discussed elsewhere in this book. Alex. A. Bero, a patriarch of the village, was three times married, and had a large family by his first wife, Mary Daley. Two of her children were Simon and Esther; another, Albert P., was a merchant in Massena, where he died in 1939. Oliver, born in Coteau, P.Q., in 1825, lived his later years in Hogansburg, where three of his children were born. He died in 1883. John O. died about seven years ago; his wife, also a Bero, died in 1933. James E., born in 1869, married Katherine Shannon.

The Taillons of Dundee and Fort Covington came from Glengarry, Ontario — Canada West, as it was called then. There were numerous branches of the family, and many members wrote the name "Tyo," as it is pronounced. Many of them stayed in Canada, especially in Tyotown, near Cornwall, and in the Summertown district. John B. Taillon was born on a farm on the Snye (French "Chenail") in 1842, his family having come thither from Glengarry, earlier in that century. His property, which was extensive,

was mostly in Canada, and he was a leading figure in Ste. Agnes de Dundee parish; but he was equally known and popular on the American side of the line. His home was in Dundee Lines, where for many years he conducted the International Hotel, which was known far and wide. The bar room was partly in the United States, partly in Canada, an obvious help to business. Opposite the hotel was the Taillon store, which was later burned down. Mrs. Taillon, a charming, motherly woman, was born Catherine Murphy, and all the children married into Irish or Scotch families. There were five sons — Jack, Walter, Francis, Charles and Steven, — and two daughters — Florence and Agnes. All married in the neighborhood, except Walter, who died unmarried. All lived near the Fort, except Jack, who lived in Glens Falls, and Florence, who married Dennis McAuley, and lived in Hamilton, Ontario. Agnes married Hugh Coyle of Belleville, Ontario, in 1912. He lived but a few years thereafter, and when he died, he left Agnes with two sons of her own, and a stepson, Hugh. She returned to the Fort to rear the boys, and for twenty-five years was a familiar and popular figure in the town, devoting much time to church work (she was organist of St. Mary's), to charity and to being a dynamic figure in social life.

Charles took over the Dundee store, after Walter's death. Charles died, about 1950, leaving his widow, Mary (Dolan), and a son, Edward, a graduate of Fordham University, and in the drug business in New York City. Mrs. Charles, Mrs. Francis and Mrs. Steven are still living in the village, and Charles Taillon, Jr., frequently visits there. This Taillon family were all lively and friendly people and have had a leading place in local life for three generations. Their summer hotel at Hopkins Point played a big role for years, as will be told, further on.

Dan Tyo ran the Northern Hotel on Water Street for a number of years. Alex Tyo rented the hotel at Dundee from John Taillon in 1887, and sold it, later, to the Dupuis in-

terests. Joe Tyo ran a store at Cook's Corners for several years. His sister Maggie was for years an indispensable employee in Den McCarthy's tailor shop—a gentle lady who was everybody's friend. In later years, she married "Larry" Lynch, and was his gracious housekeeper until his death.

Thomas Dupree (Dupuis) was one of Fort Covington's leading citizens and businessmen in the early 1900s. He lived in the spacious house off the Malone Road, just beyond the Woolen Mill Road. There he conducted successfully a sizeable farm, most unique in this section in that it had no dairy, but specialized in hay and in beef cattle. Mr. Dupree had a large family, but has no present descendants except his daughter, Hattie, who lives in the large house at the end of High Street.

Nicholas Boyea, 1841-1921 (Boyer), owned a large and fertile farm on the cross road from Drum Street to the Snye. That home is now occupied by Harold Brockway, Sr. Mrs. Boyea was Angeline Parker. There were four daughters: Julia (Frego), Selina, Angeline (LeClaire) and Mary, the last still living — Mrs. Ben Derouchie. The only son, William, died early in a promising career, leaving a widow, daughter of Thomas Mayhew, and children still living in Rochester. Nicholas Boyea was faithful and active in St. Mary's Church, in whose cemetery his family plot is endowed "for perpetual care."

The Derouchie (Durocher) family has long been associated with the history of Fort Covington. Joseph was the father of Bennie, our veteran barber, and of John, husband of Della French. John was the mail carrier for years. Horace lived for some years on the old Dewey farm just south of the village. Adolphus, son of Levi, was a teacher, downstate, having been principal at Kñoxboro, among other places. Levi ran the blacksmith and wagon shop on north Water Street.

Leo, son of Levi, has for over 35 years conducted a garage and service station there, and in spite of physical

disability that would have daunted most men, he has made himself almost indispensable to his fellow-townsmen; and it has been said that Leo is a "one-man chamber of commerce" to out-of-town travellers. He and his wife, Lucy Denio, have a son and three daughters.

The other branch of the Derouchies are descended from Xavier, Toussaint and Francois Des Roches, stone workers in northern France, who came to America about 1808. Xavier settled on the Snye, and married Christie Plumadore. They had four children, including Edward, who was a farmer in St. Lawrence County, and Joseph, who remained at the Fort and became a cabinet-maker. Edward's son Peter married Joseph's daughter Anna; they lived on Drum Street. Their children included Amzella, now Mrs. Harold Brockway, who taught for 47 years in northern New York, the last 27 in Fort Covington, which sets a record for the system, as was gratefully acknowledged at her recent retirement. Other children of Peter were Ben, the barber in Fort Covington; Mrs. Levi Rouselle; Mrs. Mitchell Lacombe; and Joseph, a baker. Mrs. George Mayhew, also a veteran teacher downstate, is a sister of Amzella.

The Rouselle family have been most useful and respected citizens here for many years. Henry Rouselle lived on Pike Street, and he reared a large family. Among them were Ida (Mrs. Angus Lacombe) and Carrie, who moved to Massena in the 1920s and conducted a nursing home there; Dennis and Charles, who, separately, managed milk routes from the Malone road, using, among others, the Creighton dairy. The best-known member of the family was the mother, who died in Ogdensburg on New Year's Day, 1941, where she had gone to live after her husband's death. In an obituary notice, the SUN said: "Her life and work was contemporary with . . . local doctors during . . . the past fifty or sixty years . . . to her, nursing was more than a profession . . . each new arrival was her own baby, claimed . . . throughout all her life."

Levi Rouselle, a dignified, businesslike man, conducted a store at the corner of Water and Center Streets. His family included three daughters and two sons. His son William, who never married, died in April, 1940, and his death caused deep sorrow in the community, which had come to look upon him as indispensable. He had been in charge of the Macartney drug store for many years, and had been town clerk. In both capacities, he served his fellow-townsmen effectively and unostentatiously on countless occasions. He was accustomed to provide many small favors, such as renewing a boy's fishing or dog license at his own expense; and could be depended upon to help every civic effort.

The Lacombe family have been in Fort Covington since the early days. Peter lived on the Malone road, and was a very industrious workman and farmer who found little leisure for social diversion. His wife was Marcelline LaReche. Their family included four sons — Peter, William, John and Joseph. John was the best-known of the family, having served the community as U. S. Customs officer for this port for twenty years. He conquered an almost insurmountable physical handicap, acquired a good education and made a splendid record for exactness and integrity in a difficult job. His wife was the former Katherine Rowley, daughter of Thomas Rowley of Ste. Agnes. They built a commodious new home on Covington Street, and raised a family of six sons and two daughters, none of whom are now living in this village. Two of the boys graduated at Cornell, and a daughter, Mary, with whom her mother makes her home, is a trained nurse in Albany. After John's death in 1934 Mrs. Lacombe remained for several years in the Fort, and was active in religious and welfare work.

The LaFleche and LeClair families were formerly well-represented in Fort Covington. John LeClair, who married Angie Boyea, drove the Malone stage for years; his unfailing good nature eased many a trying situation for the villagers.

Joseph LeClair, the father, lived on Drum Street in the village, and was a farmer and teamster, as was his son Angus, who married Delia French.

The Laportes are later arrivals from Canada. J. P. Laporte came as a telegraph operator, became a broker for F. W. Myers and Co. of Plattsburgh.

Telesphore Gendron came from Montreal in the 1880s, and made his home on the Deer River road. He was an educated man, of very delicate physique, and clearly not adapted to the simple life of a country village. He named one of his sons McGill; the others were Bennie, Fred and little Telesphore, Jr., who was killed in a domestic accident. The mother, an honest, hard working woman, obviously of lower social rank than her husband, was the main support of the family, by laundering and berry-picking. Mr. Gendron died within a few years, and the name has long since disappeared in the locality.

John French came at an early date, and for many years ran a blacksmith shop at the west end of the "upper bridge," adjacent to the historic mill there. He lived to an advanced age. His son Joseph continued the shop. John's son, George, who died in 1944, was one of the town landmarks, who spent most of his life as chief clerk in the Dempsey store. His quiet gentle manner and exceptional courtesy made him well liked and long remembered. He also took an active part in all current local activities, such as the fire company, and was the school tax collector. His wife — nee Mattie Basha — was a handsome, style-conscious woman, who for years ran a millinery shop at her home on Chateaugay Street. Ben French was Fort Covington's barber in the '80s, and trained other excellent barbers in his shop at the same location on the east side of Water Street, where Arthur D'Amour now has his shop.

There have been Mainvilles in Fort Covington since early days, and additions have come in frequently from Canada. George Mainville was trained in farming by "Dea-

con" Nicholas Farlinger, of Dundee, whose memory he always praised. George later managed the Farlinger farm just east of Dundee, which was later occupied for a time by "Jim Y" Cameron. From there he moved onto the Donald McPhee farm, on the Fort Covington Centre road, where he died. His wife was Sophie Basha, and the children were Edith, who died in Montreal, Addison and James, who were barbers in Malone, and Isidore, who is still living in Warren, Ohio. Edith's "Notes on Ft. Covington History," written in 1896, while she was a student in the Academy, won her a prize; they have been recently republished, and have won much praise. Another Mainville who is well remembered is Dannie, who took over the old Minkler bakery, and ran it for years. He died in 1951. Many Mainvilles live in and around the village.

Several Premo (Primeau) families were well-known residents here. Alex Premo, d. 1892, was in partnership for years with Frank Spencer in the furniture business. His wife was Martha Lafleche. Jim Premo kept a whole generation of us well cobbled. The first baptism in the records of St. Mary's Catholic Church reads: "Emma, daughter of James Primeau and Mary Vondell; Nov. 7, 1839."

Theophile ("Tuffeele") Charette lived, when an old man, in the house now occupied by Wm. Mayville. He was a simple, industrious old man, who did much work around the village, as did his son Jerry, and his daughter, Betsy, his housekeeper. A story is told of him that, just before the presidential election of 1860, someone asked Tuffeele whom he expected to vote for. "Oh, I guess for Mr. Lincoln," he replied; but when the wag pressed him for an explanation, he admitted that he "wasn't sure whether it was Allen or the old man!" Jerry's son, Webster, lives on Center Street, in the bungalow-type house built by Sid Summers on his return from California.

One of the most common French names in Fort Covington has been that of Michaud; they have been here since

the early days. Nevertheless, it is a striking illustration of the neglect which the early French suffered from their more literate and propertied neighbors that, on the lists of our Civil War veterans, Michael Joseph Michaud often is recorded as "Myron Mitchell." He was commonly called "Mynie," and is not known to have resented it; he probably felt as a farmer of those days expressed it when he said "Call me anything, as long as you don't call me late for dinner!" Mynie's wife, Julia Lenno, was far brighter and of a more spirited disposition. She had a fiery temper and a fluent tongue. She conceived it to be her mission to instruct all the small children of the church (Catholic) whom she could get, in the principles of the catechism; and to that end, she held classes in her home, somewhat to the annoyance of the clergy. Her own two children did not live to manhood. George Michaud was a bull-like man, physically and mentally, much sought-after for threshing and harvesting jobs, because of his strength and indifference to discomfort. He feared nothing or nobody, except his wife, Bridget Patterson (Patnaude), who boasted that she could kick his hat off if he didn't obey! Crary, a third brother, was really sub-normal, which did not prevent his getting married — concerning which a story is told. Charles Norton, the veteran J. P., coming upon Crary in a store one day, reminded him that he had never received his fee for marrying Crary; whereupon, by mutual agreement, Crary cancelled the debt by standing on his head and turning his body through his hands inside a half-bushel measure!

The Gratton family lived in the village. Jerry was custodian of St. Mary's church for a considerable time. Martin was a very competent housepainter, and I believe that his brother "Chick" was engaged in the same line.

Mrs. Libbie Villnave (Villeneuve) lived near Berry's bridge, and supported her family by laundering. She was very well-liked and was missed by many when she removed with her family to Warren, Ohio, where her son Fred died

recently. Fred was popular in church entertainments about the time of World War I.

The Vivlamore (Vivelamour) family is well remembered here, particularly Christine, who married Ed Miller, one of the best-known boatbuilders. Ed spent his winters, latterly, with his daughter in Florida, where he died in 1962.

Two of the most common French names in Fort Covington were Baska (Bastien) and Bashaw (Begin). The Allen families, once so common here, are believed to be properly Baskas. Charles Baska had a large family, as did John, Sr. Charles' wife, Betsy Laruche, a very friendly laundress, lived to an advanced age, but died a tragic death in a fire which destroyed her home, in 1937. Fred Allen, 1880-1945, was a son of Louis. He lived his whole life in Fort Covington, where he was employed for 23 consecutive years as a watchman for the railroad. He married Nellie Barney, who survived him. They had eight children, most of whom lived in town or nearby. Among them were Mrs. Douglas McGibbon and Mrs. Bernice Leahy. Mr. Allen was a creditable representative of the French Americans who, without publicity, did so much of the work in our towns.

The Barney (Bernier) family were numerous here for a long time. They lived mostly on the Malone road. Steven Barney (1846-1929) and Joseph Barney each had large families. Another well-known member of the family was "Long Tom," who had the distinction of living many years as a bachelor — very rare among our French population. Father Desjardins preached a memorable sermon at Tom's funeral.

Peter Rushlo (Rousillon) lived on Salmon Street, across from the Academy. His family, who were numerous and usually in straitened circumstances, were sometimes called "Red-tops" from the color of their hair. Peter's two sons, Gilbert, who was lame; and Tommie — were well-known to all. Tommie had a fine family, one daughter of whom,

Mariba (or Meribel), married Charles Lynch. Moses Jesmer lived near the same corner.

The Bashaw (Begin) family were numerous and often in the limelight for exploits across the Border. Three brothers — Napoleon, Julie and Frank — were central figures in many exciting episodes which added to the spice of life here in the early 1900s. But the work done by the Bashaws had been a substantial part of the manual labor performed in the community, and their sons and daughters-in-law have added much to our material well-being.

Various members of the Brown family — “Bill,” Alzina, and, particularly John, who was handicapped by a speech impediment, are well known or remembered. He was active and well-liked for a good many years. Despite his handicap, he raised a large family, and some of his children are numbered among our best citizens.

The Brockway (Braconnier) family arrived here rather late in the town's history, but are now numerous and prominent. Gabriel Braconnier came from France at the same time as the original Benjamin Boyer; they drifted apart for a while, but were finally reunited in Fort Covington. Gabriel worked for the Creightons, then bought a farm in Constable, then returned to this town. His son John rented the H. N. Burns farm, then moved, in 1896, to the Allen McElwain farm. He had four sons and three daughters, of whom Harold, born in 1899, has long been one of the town's leading citizens. He has had fourteen children, many of them farmers. His daughter Joyce is married to Simon Smith, who took over the former Wilson Lumber Company. Gerald owns the gas station formerly conducted by Charles Mayhew. Carol is married to Howard Jock, an electrician on the Eisenhower Lock. Madeline (Mrs. Leroux) is employed in the Fort Covington post office.

Harold Lamay owns the jewelry business so long conducted by George Connell. Another son runs the former Casey farm on Pike Creek. The home of Harold Brockway

is on the fine farm formerly owned by Hiram Russell, Levi Gleason, Ben Boyea and Nicholas Boyea, from whom Mr. Brockway bought it in 1918.

Thomas Mayhew (Mailloux) was the "village blacksmith" on Salmon Street for a generation; his sons Tom and Charles worked along with him. Mayhew's well liked spouse was a bright, sociable woman, and their home, as well as the shop, were centers of friendly association. The older boys died some years ago, but George occupies the old home, though usually spending winters in Portchester, New York. Tom Mayhew's daughters lived in New York City (Mrs. Shields), in Rochester (Mrs. Boyea) and in Malone (Mrs. Lowe). The last named, Lillian, was Fort Covington's efficient telephone manager when the village had an office.

In the south end of Fort Covington town, there were many French families, tenant farmers or day laborers. They included the families of Jules and John French, Peter Laruche, "Kisseys," Labaffs and Labrakes, near Fort Covington Centre; Marshalls (Masson?) near the Westville boundary; Tupers (Toupin), Turners (Tournier) and Martins on "the French Plains," in the extreme southwest part of town; and Jocks (Jacques) and Perrys (Poirier) in various neighborhoods. Peter Tuper, of the first settlers, is buried in Brushton. His son, Gilian, married Rose, daughter of Amos Perry, on July 17, 1892. She is still living, bright and cheerful at more than 90 years of age, with her daughter, Mrs. Emory Winters of Bombay. Her son Eugene drives a school bus; his wife was Anna McKane. Mrs. Tuper relates that when they were first married, they lived in Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts, which was then popular with our Franklin County people. Returning to the north, they lived for 49 years on the former Moses Southworth (pronounced Suthard) farm, near Cook's Corners. The records of that school district name a great many Toupers. It is recorded that in the 1880s and 90s, "Mrs. Joseph Tuper and Mr. Oliver Jock were hired to

teach pupils in the western end of the district." There are adjoining Tuper houses along the road, as well as quite a few abandoned houses; and on the Bangor town line is a little community commonly referred to as Tuperville.

Emory and Antoine Martin lived near each other on the plains. Their wives used to pick the wild raspberries and blackberries which grew plentifully among the second-growth timber, and brought their crop to the nearby villages,

Henry Turner was a quiet, hard-working man who spent his life inoffensively in the strenuous farm work of that day; he may be taken as a fair representation of a large class which has now practically disappeared, but to which the more literate inhabitants of the border owe a great debt. He died in 1902, his wife in 1911; but, after fifty years, I can still recall her good heart and her unfailing gifts of wintergreen berries. There were two daughters, one of whom, Mrs. Susan Jock, still lives in the village; and two sons, one of whom, Oliver, lives in West Springfield Massachusetts, but has made many visits back to Fort Covington.

Undoubtedly the most enterprising and successful family of French descent in the southern part of Fort Covington was the family of DeGowin. The pioneer was Richard DeGowin, whose father came from France to Canada, and settled at Coteau, Quebec, where Richard was born in May, 1823. His mother was born in Ireland. He came to Fort Covington at the age of 13. He married Nancy Perry, a sister of Charles Perry and Mrs. Jonathan Smith, whose son, Guy, still lives in the neighborhood. Mrs. Richard DeGowin Sr., died in 1880, leaving eight children, the second of whom, James, inherited the homestead on the Cook's Corners road. The house, still standing, in good condition, was built in 1854. It contains 14 rooms. It is now occupied by Eugene, son of James. His brother Watson, a graduate of the University of Michigan, spent his active life in Detroit, in the employ of the Detroit Testing

Laboratory. He now lives in Florida and in his summer cottage at Dupuis Point. His mother was Mary, daughter of George Howard. She died in 1955 at the home of her granddaughter, Mrs. C. Walter Smallman.

Richard DeGowin was an expert carpenter, and built many buildings, other than his own, in this vicinity. He was active in community affairs and in the Masonic Lodge, and had a host of friends. He kept a diary, which throws light on old times there.

His grandson Eugene now occupies the DeGowin homestead. He is well-known among stock growers for his herd of full-blood Aberdeen Angus beef cattle, which have won prizes all over the state. Mrs. DeGowin, the former Sarah Smallman, daughter of Joseph Smallman of St. Agnes — is widely known as a most intelligent and public-spirited woman, keenly interested in all community activities, and a frequent contributor to the press, particularly on the subject of antiques, with which her own home is bountifully supplied. Eugene and Sara celebrated their golden wedding in September, 1962, at an all day "open house" which was attended by a host of well-wishers from both sides of the Line. Their daughters, Mrs. Harlie Smith of Malone and Mrs. C. Walter Smallman, acted as hostesses.

Lifetime neighbors of the DeGowins were the Beans, particularly Ed and his son Alwin, who never married. It is believed that these Beans were of French descent (LeFebvre), not related to the Yankee residents whom we have described. The school meeting minutes of the Deer River district in October, 1846, lists Moses Bean as one of the trustees. Ethel Bean, born in Hogansburg, daughter of William Bean, married Harold Brockway.

An outstanding name of French origin in Westville in former days was LeFleur; but there are few, if any, of that name now there. Mrs. Roswell Ordway was Elizabeth LeFleur, and Mrs. James Baxter, who conducted the store

at Fort Covington Centre for many years, dying only this year, was Ola LeFleur, born 1888.

Westville also had numerous DeGrays, Benns, LeMays and Ghostlaws (Gosselin) some of whom moved to Massachusetts and did well there. John Benn was one of these.

Frank Fleury, 1845-1937, came from Canada to Westville, where several of his descendants are now farmers, one of them operating the farm formerly owned by Will Noakes, Charles Stockwell and Colburn Grant. Bernard Fleury has taken over the former store near Briggs Street, and is town clerk of Westville.

Bombay formerly did not have as many French as the other two towns. It is said that some French intermarried with Indians for the sake of land allotments. Two common French names are Grow and Sanjule (St. Jules). Frank Sanjule was postmaster at Hogansburg for 25 years. John Grow came from France, about 1800. He lived on the farm now operated by Charles Southwick. Among his descendants were Sidney Grow, who died in 1923, and Charles, who died in 1926. Sidney was active in many businesses, including the store — now closed — later run by McKinnon. Charles lived on Church Street, Hogansburg. He was an undertaker until just before his death. His son, Charles H., continued the business, but was killed in 1933. His daughter Oliver still lives in the village, and another daughter, Edith, is Mrs. Angelo Maxwell of New York City.

My enumeration of the French-descended people of the Three Towns is not exhaustive, nor can it be. It is probably very incomplete on the most recent comers, of whom there have been a good many coming from Canada in recent years, taking over farms and businesses. Some of these we will meet in later chapters.

8 COMING—AND GOING—OF THE IRISH

We have already seen that the original opening to settlement of the land now comprising the Three Towns was the work of a few men of speculative spirit, and that nearly all of these were Irishmen — Michael Hogan, Constable, McVickar and McCormick among them. But none of these had any idea of leaving his comfortable home in New York City to come and live in the wilderness he had bought. The first actual settlers were French laborers from Canada, or Yankees from Vermont or Washington County, near Albany. Many of these last moved on to the west, after a few years, and left none of their name behind. But, beginning in the early 1820s, and continuing to the time of the Civil War, a stream of Irish immigrants poured into the new settlements, and their descendants came in time to own much of the land and do most of the business in the Three Towns; and to these we now give attention.

With the exception of John Hunsden, whose services to the St. Regis tribe we narrated above, the only person of Irish name who lived here before 1820 seems to have been William Ryan, who took up land leased from the Indians, east of French Mills and bordering the Canadian line. His name appears on the muster roll of Capt. David Erwin's company in 1812, and also on the map of 1818. Land near his is also recorded in the name of a "Mrs. Ryan" — perhaps a sister-in-law. Nancy, "relict" of William, is buried in the Old Cemetery on Salmon Street. She died in 1849, and William in 1839 (born 1766).

James Ryan (1825-81), his wife Harriet Longley, their daughter, Mrs. Joseph Erwin of Plainfield, N. J., and son, Sherry, of Chicago, lived on the farm on Malone road, later run by Peter Lacombe, and now occupied by George Bailey.

Near the Ryans were settled the Holden family, Irish people who arrived in the 1820s. Patrick Holden, who

bought his land from Ryan, married Bridget Cahill, who outlived him a good many years, and whose name — “the Widow Holden” — appears on many documents; she had fourteen sons and two daughters. One daughter — Ella — married Levi Gleason. A son, William C., made a will dated Feb. 23, 1864. His wife was a sister of William (“Bill”) Dempsey of Malone; their daughter married Thomas McCaffrey of Trout River, whose daughter married Herbert McQueen. Other Holdens intermarried into the Sullivan, Hackett and Keefe families.

Martin Holden was born in Ireland in 1809, and married Anna Corcoran there in 1841. They came to Fort Covington soon thereafter, and located on Drum Street, near the village. He worked in the ashery for twenty years, then bought the farm on the Burns road that is still known as the Holden homestead and has been cultivated by Holdens ever since; Lawrence Holden is living there now. Martin’s family consisted of eight children, all now deceased. The ones who remained in this neighborhood include Thomas, brother of Frank, now living in Fort Covington village; James, whose son, James, Jr., lives on the former Charles Frye farm; Martin, David’s son lives in Ogdensburg, where he was assistant collector of customs for 40 years until his retirement, this year, with high praise. He has a son, David, Jr., in charge of the Ogdensburg-Prescott bridge. Margaret, Martin’s sister died a few years ago. James Holden, Sr., married Maude, daughter of John Black and his wife, who came from Ireland. James bought the John Lightbody place, and farmed there until his death in 1925; his daughter Grace is still living there.

Francis D. Holden (“Frank”) was a very successful farmer for years, but has now rented his farm and moved into the historic Herriman house on the river’s edge in Water Street. His wife, the former Genevieve Hourihan died a few years ago, leaving one daughter, Helen, a business girl in Rochester. Frank is one of the best-informed and most reliable men in the whole district.

The Fort Covington assessment roll for 1829 shows the names of all taxpayers, with the amount of tax paid by

each. Besides Hogan, who paid the highest tax in the town — \$41.97 — the only people of Irish names who are listed are: James O'Keefe, \$.90; two Parkers; William Ryan, \$3.38; John "Almon"; Edmond Cotter; Michael Croke; Patrick and Michael Collins; John Daley; Cornelius Flaherty; Patrick Feeley; James Fitzgerald; Peter Hannan; William G. Holden (who died in 1859, and is buried in the old town cemetery) John and George "McLewayne"; William McConnell and James "Maraty" (Moriarty?).

North of the Holdens, along the Line, there were O'Reillys and McCaffreys, mostly located in Canada. Mary McCaffrey married John O'Reilly and they lived on the road which leads from Ste. Agnes to Fort Covington in a house, now dilapidated, perhaps a half-mile south of her father's home. This neighborhood once carried the unflattering name of "Sodom." They built a store there, directly on the Line, and all the older residents remember it well as the "Mary Riley" store, an active center of business and scene of many exciting episodes, some of which are related in Robert Fraser's book. After John, due to a business difficulty, left for the west and never returned, his wife courageously carried on, and raised a fine family of four sons and three daughters. When the older children were of an age to work, she took them to Minneapolis, where they grew up and prospered, and where Mrs. O'Reilly, assisted by her son Jack, established a successful high-grade bakery business; and it is likely that her experience in the little "line-store" was an important factor in her success. Until 1907 various men — Cappiello, McKinnon, McNichol and Fraser ran the store; it was eventually torn down.

The only one of the family who frequently returned to the Fort, where he got his first education, was Edward Grantham O'Reilly, who prospered in New York City as a partner in the Belding Silk Company. He lived a bachelor in the Plaza Hotel, and became a connoisseur of fine arts.

Other O'Reillys in this area were William, Charles and Katherine, who married James McCaffrey, and her sister Ella, who married her cousin, James O'Reilly. Katherine's

son, Edward, married Henrietta Mayhew, who is still living in Toronto. The family lived in Fort Covington while the children were in school. Leon McCaffrey married Gladys Santann; both husband and wife were in Canadian government service, Leon being for years the very popular customs officer at Dundee; he died suddenly in 1936, and his widow has since lived in Fort Covington. Her son Robert lives near Rochester. Her younger son, Bruce, lives in Fort Covington and is employed in Massena. James and Ella O'Reilly had four children. The son Adrian was chief customs officer at Dundee. Retired in 1960 by age regulations, he was tendered a laudatory banquet by all his associates. His sister Eileen is with the U. S. forces in Germany.

In the northeastern corner of Westville, on the Shur road, were other McCaffrey and Cunningham families, whose former homes and farm buildings are now pulled down. They were the scenes of revelry in the long ago, when Barney and Johnnie Cunningham were popular wits and practical jokers; but the families are no longer there. Neither are the Patrick Hugheses, who lived in a brick house near the town line of Constable.

A short distance away, on the Sulphur Springs road, was the large farm of Henry Hughes, a pioneer settler who saw the region develop from the wilderness into a fertile, well-settled area. He died in March, 1940, on the farm on which he was born, and where he spent his entire life, except eight years in California. While he did not live in the Three Towns, he was always intimately connected with them, as were his family. His wife was Elizabeth Donovan, of Fort Covington; his eldest daughter married John Fallon of Westville; his third daughter married Will Courtney; and his only son, John, married Elizabeth Keefe. John inherited the farm, and conducted it for some years. He then leased it to a Mr. Bennor, and has recently sold it, but has reserved the home, to continue living on the Hughes farm. During World War II, John was chairman of Franklin County's AAA committee and associated federal bodies. He was later active in the GLF and other farmer's activities. His only son, Henry, Jr., a state employee, lives near Albany.

John Fallon, who married Ella Hughes, came from Ste. Agnes in 1899, and bought the Shane farm on Little Briggs Street, where he lived until 1943, and developed one of the model farms of the county. A man of keen intelligence and strong will, and accomplishing extraordinary physical work for one of his slight frame, Mr. Fallon was most notable for his progressive ideas. These are summed up in an article in the *AMERICAN AGRICULTURALIST* of Nov. 5, 1960. It states, among other things, that he owned the first tractor in the town (1916), that he was cited in 1928 as a Master Farmer — one of ten in the state — and that, at his retirement, he owned 50 to 60 registered cows, averaging 10,000 lbs. of milk annually. He was a leader in the Grange, and instrumental in having the GLF cooperative stores established in this area. Mr. Fallon and his wife, Ella Hughes, had eleven children, only one of whom — Fred, now living in Malone — remained in farming. Several of the boys have had important positions in the GLF, and the N. Y. State Dairymen's Farm Bureau. Mr. Fallon now lives in Malone, as do his nieces, Anna Callahan and Edith Hughes a former Malone school teacher.

Daniel Shane was a veteran farmer in Westville, as was his son Thomas, who married Mabel, daughter of Henry Long. They had three sons, one of whom — Emmet — married Beatrice Dumas; and had three daughters who became nuns — one of them known in religion as Mother Loyola.

Another of the Shane family married Thomas Rogers, who lived on Sand Street, as did his half-brother, Patrick. Thomas Rogers operated a limekiln at Westville Centre, which produced a high-quality plaster — "dark in color but its building qualities were excellent; when the plaster hardened it was firm as a rock." Patrick's sons included Mark and Fred, who are farmers in Westville, and Ed, who is living in Malone. Thomas' family included four sons — Tom, Will, John and Dan — and two sisters — Emma (Mrs. John Lennon) and Augusta, who lives in Chicopee, Massachusetts. John Rogers spent his life in the drug business, starting in the Macartney drug store. While there he married Mary Donovan in 1897. She died in 1960 in Pawling,

New York, where Mr. Rogers for over 25 years conducted the Pawling Drug Company, later conducted (until 1963) by his niece, Mary (Lennon) Palmer.

In the same neighborhood lived the Casey and Dempsey families. Elizabeth ("Betsy") Casey married James Dempsey. His family came originally from Enniscorthy, County Wexford, where cousins of that name still live. James Dempsey came to Fort Covington from St. Anicet, Quebec, where he had clerked in a store and learned French fluently, which was an asset to him when he later took over the Thomas Creed store on Water Street. He had a successful business there until his death on Dec. 3, 1907. A handsome man of polished manner, he was everybody's friend. His wife was an active and popular woman. Her millinery shop in the store was a center of social life. She survived until 1930.

Charles, their only son, continued his father's business, and was a partner in a flour, feed and lumber business for years. Like his father, he was an exemplar of geniality and civic enterprise, and a lover of sports. He died on Jan. 13, 1946. He married Madeline Lachance of Huntingdon, who still lives in the handsome house which Charles had erected on the site of the famous old American House Hotel.

Katherine graduated at Plattsburgh Normal, taught for several years in Brooklyn public schools, and there married Dr. Hector Benoit, a native of Ottawa. Dr. Benoit opened private practice in Brooklyn in 1916, and rose to be one of the outstanding surgeons in the metropolis. He was at various times president of the Brooklyn Surgical Society, fellow of the American College of Surgeons, founder member of the American Board of Surgery, and attending surgeon in many large hospitals. He died June 27, 1942, and is buried, with his wife, in St. Mary's Cemetery. Mrs. Benoit died on Dec. 20, 1947, and is survived by a son and a daughter who live in Watertown and Larchmont respectively.

The Dempsey family is now represented here by Mrs. Charles Dempsey and her son, James 2nd, and his family, who now live in the house on Covington Street, last occupied by the Blacketts. James is a graduate of Fordham University and of the College of Law of Syracuse University. He is

manager of the local branch of Farmers National Bank of Malone. His wife was Leslie deVarona, of Malone; they have three children.

William Dempsey became quite wealthy by being the largest operator in the then lucrative business of smuggling livestock across the Line. In those days, little if any, stigma was attached to that business; success required only ingenuity and some capital, both of which Mr. Dempsey had. Mr. Dempsey built his house, which is still standing, at the corner of the Sulphur Springs and Pifershire roads; the latter gets its peculiar name from "pilfer" — meaning "to steal" — and "shear." William Dempsey spent his later years in Malone, where he is buried.

Settlers named Shannon were along the Canadian border at a very early date. Thomas, born 1816; Elizabeth, born 1820; and James, born 1827, are buried in local cemeteries. James was twice married — first to a Miss McCarthy, second to Ellen Hartigan, whose daughter Katie spent her entire life in Westville. Another daughter married George Costello. James, son of Thomas, became rich in the construction business in Springfield.

Barney Fitzpatrick and his wife, Johanna Dineen, lived in that neighborhood, highly respected, and raised a family, some of whose members were living in Wallace, Idaho, a few years ago.

Going back now to the main — Malone-Fort Covington — road, we come to the land of the Hannas. John Hanna was born in Belfast, Ireland, in 1791, and brought his wife to Westville in 1814. They settled on the second farm east of the Fort Covington town line. His son, William, born 1828, married Catherine McMaster in 1861. They had four sons and two daughters. William, Jr., married Lillian Kingsley, left no children. John married Lizzie McQueen, left two sons, one of whom — Harold — is in the banking business in New York City, unmarried; Mary married Will Wright; four children live in Ogdensburg. Jennie married George Hollenbeck; a daughter lives in Maryland. The Hanna brothers were active in trading in cattle. They sold the farm to Frank Holden. Arthur was one of the area's first auto dealers.

In 1822, three Irish brothers, Patrick, Cornelius and Michael Dineen, arrived in Quebec with their families, and made their way up the St. Lawrence to Ste. Agnes, where their descendants have lived up to the present time. They were followed in 1826 by Dennis E., who settled in Fort Covington and founded a family that has been a leading one in the town ever since. His wife was Mary Creed. In the early 1860s they bought the stone house at the corner of Center and Covington Street, where their youngest daughter, Genevieve — Mrs. Ralph Hayes — still lives. In that house were born eight of their nine children, all of whom grew up in the village and in their youth were foremost in all good activities. Margaret, the eldest, succeeded her mother as head of the family, and added to her mother's overflowing geniality, a culture and a stately presence that will long be remembered. Mary was an accomplished musician, who taught many young people the essentials of her art. She married John Parker of Bombay, and they moved to Hutchinson, Kansas. After her husband's death, she moved with her sons to Oklahoma; but she frequently visited the old home. Genevieve's husband, Ralph Hayes, was a civil engineer in the state service, whose chief duty was on the barge canal, when they lived in Stillwater, New York. Of the boys, Ed was in partnership with his father, and later practiced insurance in Buffalo. Ed married Helen Brannen. Charles was educated at Potsdam Normal, became a lawyer, and lived on Long Island. He was married first to Margaret McKenna; his second family did not live in the Fort. Dennis, Jr. lives in Helena, Montana. William S. graduated Georgetown University — one of the first local boys to go to college; but his early death cut short a promising career.

Mr. Denneen started in business with an ashery near Noble's Bay. He made long and arduous trips into the surrounding country on both sides of the Line, collecting ashes, and shipped his processed product to Montreal. To avoid confusion in his business records — he had a cousin, Dennis S. Dineen, in business in Canada — he decided to spell his last name with an "e" and an extra "n," and this spelling has since continued. Later he had a warehouse and a wharf

near Allen Matthew wharf, to which steamers came regularly. He also had a cooperage shop, turning out staves and barrels made from ash saplings bought from the Indians. For a time he conducted a liquor business in partnership with his brother-in-law, Michael Meade. About 1870, he built the brick block at the corner of Water and Mill Streets. There he conducted a general store for many years, and, as age came on, he sold that building to Dr. Macartney.

Mr. Denneen, who died in 1915, was a man of great industry and acumen, rather short-tempered and inclined to be dictatorial, a stickler for appearances and good order. He and his wife, who died in 1921, were mainstays of St. Mary's Catholic Church, as their daughter, Mrs. Hayes, is today.

Some of the Canadian Dineens have lived in the Fort from time to time, including James, who bought the former Thomas Dupree farm in 1953. "Maggie Emma" Dineen was one of the best-known dressmakers. Mrs. Jack Dineen and her family lived here for some years.

James Macartney, Sr., a bootmaker, was born in Ireland in 1821. He married his wife Claire in Quebec. Their children, all born in Fort Covington, were three sons — George, James and William, and one daughter, Sarah. George and James ran a dry goods store on Water Street for many years, which, together with Fay Brothers store nearby, were among the most substantial stores of the area. James lived in the large house now owned by Robert Regan. Mrs. James had been Mary McElwain; there were no children.

Despite an attack of cancer, from which he recovered, but was left badly disfigured, James remained a leader in the business life of the town, particularly through the Fort Covington Bank, which he and his brothers organized and controlled. George and his wife — Mary Alice Paddock — lived in the handsome house at the northeast corner of Chateaugay and Covington Streets, which was noted for its hospitality. Their son, William P., never married, and devoted himself to restoring and beautifying his home, and to advising his friends on furniture and antiques. He was

a close friend and confidante of Emma Streeter in her later years, and was willed the bulk of her household treasures, plus a monetary bequest. Unfortunately, he died soon afterward. His sister, Florence, a charming and universally beloved girl, married Gould Hunter, who died in the 1940s, leaving two sons, the younger of whom now conducts the clothing store on Water Street.

The third of the Macartney brothers was the famous Dr. William N., whose book *Fifty Years A Country Doctor*, was awarded national honors and translated into several languages. Written in the doctor's forthright style, it is a recitation of his experiences, medical and otherwise, during the period 1889-1938.

His facts are supplemented by shrewd observations on human nature and conduct, told in pungent but not uncharitable words. The book not only brought fame and high praise to the doctor, but made his native town known to many who had never been aware of its existence. A landmark in Franklin County for a half-century, he lived and had his office on the second floor of the brick store which he purchased from D. E. Denneen. The first floor was the commodious drug store, where people from far and near were attended by the shrewd and kindly Sarah Macartney and her efficient and obliging helper, Will Rouselle. Not a little of the doctor's success and indispensable value to the community was due — as he himself was first to proclaim — to his wife, Caroline Claghorn, a southern lady who stood at his side as the community "head nurse" during many trying times, especially when hospital service was in its infancy.

They had two daughters — Elin (Mrs. Robert Smith) and Caroline (Mrs. Philip Gorman) and one son, William, who lives in Utica. Both girls married doctors, and Mrs. Smith herself studied medicine. Her husband was killed in World War II. Their son, Bruce, carrying on the family tradition, now practices in the village, in offices adjoining the new bank, and lives in the former P. A. Matthews home. He married Rosalie Kent of Montreal, and has been joined in practice by his younger brother Robert.

Dr. Gorman, with his wife and children, lives and has his office in the former William McKenna home on Covington Street. He is prominent not only professionally, but also in civic affairs. He was president of the former Fort Covington School Board.

The first trustees of St. Mary's Church, built 1837-40, were all Irish, and presumably must have lived here for quite a few years to have been able to contribute materially; as, for instance, when William Leahy loaned money for the work, and Patrick Holden gave part of the stone. The trustees were William Leahy, William McKenna, Michael Caldwell, James Fitzgerald, Michael Murphy, Hugh Laffey and Austin McDonnell.

The Leahy (or Lahey) family were continuous residents of the town until a few years ago. Jay, the son of William, led an adventurous life in the "south woods," the Pacific gold fields, and elsewhere, until he settled on a secluded farm in the south part of the town, where he stayed until his sons, John and William, and his daughter, Della, reached school age, when the family moved to Massena. He engaged in the construction business there until his death in the 1950s. One of his grandsons is a bank official in Massena; another, Dr. Charles ., is presently a teacher of history in the State Teachers College in Potsdam. Mrs. Jay Lahey was Agnes Kinsella, of another pioneer family. She was a sister of William Kinsella, whose life is summarized elsewhere in this book.

The McKenna family came from County Cavan. William, the trustee of St. Mary's, married Katherine Reardon. They had seven children. The oldest — John — married Hannah Shane. Their children were Dan, William, Thomas, Mary, Kate, Maggie, Elizabeth, Louise and John — the last three being triplets. John McKenna lived in the brick house at the junction of the Dog Hollow and Hogansburg roads. James married twice — to Mary Casey and Harriet Blodgett. His children were William, Mattie, Cassie, Ruth and Rufus. James McKenna lived on a farm on the Burns road. He was a veteran of the Civil War, in which he lost an arm. He returned from the war a staunch Republican,

and later held several public offices. Despite his physical handicap, he conducted a prosperous farm, and was highly respected as a citizen and neighbor. Cassie, their daughter, married John Webb. The Webb home, on the Bombay road, became known, under Cassie's skillful care, as an attractive social one, filled with handsome objects peculiar to the early twentieth century. Mrs. Webb was active in every local project, and she could be depended upon to speak and write for them. She was active in the Presbyterian Church. There were no children.

Edward, the next son, married Susan Shiff. Of William's (the first) daughters, the eldest — Mary — married a Donnelly, and had six children; Eliza married Hugh Cosgrove, and had nine children, the youngest being Frank, mentioned above; and Margaret married James Smith, and had seven children. Many of the children of all those families lived in Canada or elsewhere outside the Three Towns.

William — youngest son of the trustee — was born in 1842 and died in 1916. He married Anne Louise McQueen, who died in 1912. Their children were George, who married Nellie Dimond (he died in 1938, and his widow moved to Maryland to be with her son); Warren, who never married; Floyd, who was a farmer in Fort Covington; Anna May and Mida, who were teachers in the West for many years; Stiles and Dora. The last two lived most of their lives in New Paltz, New York, where they engaged in dairying; Dora, the only survivor, is Mrs. Jewett. Dan moved to Malone, where he was a well-known livery stable proprietor for years. Elizabeth married John Barrett, a lawyer, of Webster, New York.

The other original trustees of St. Mary's apparently moved away, in the migration to the West in the 1830s, and no descendants are found in the Three Towns today; but their places were more than filled by Irish who followed in their footsteps from the Old Country.

The McFaddens and Armstrongs came from Counties Tyrone, Leitrim and Antrim in northern Ireland. William McFadden left Ireland in 1826, and came into the U. S. in 1830, having probably spent the intervening four years

in Canada. The name of his wife is not known, but they had six children, and acquired land in Westville, between the Canadian Line and the Sulphur Springs road. When his sons John and William married, respectively, Annie Hughes and Euphemie McGibbon, he deeded them each 75 acres of land. William, Jr., was commonly called Billy to distinguish him from his father. They worked their lands in common. Billy had five children. He died when they were quite small, but the widow rented the farm, worked as a midwife, and raised her children successfully. Later, this family all moved to eastern Oregon. John McFadden gave up farming and tried the liquor business for a while; he got into trouble and quit that. His son, John Henry, stayed on his father's old farm. His wife, born Annie Murray, was still living in 1958, at the age of 96.

Katherine and Margaret, William's daughters, met and eloped with two young men from Tyrone who were staying with friends on the Canadian Irish Ridge. The husbands were, respectively, Michael McVeigh and Edward Armstrong. Edward and Margaret had eleven children, of whom the second — Willie — was chosen to help his grandfather McFadden on the farm. It was agreed that Willie should receive his grandfather's land, provided he paid \$2,000 to the other heirs, plus the appraised value of the goods and chattels. This was in 1864. Margaret is described as a "fast and constant worker, a sharp and witty talker; she could milk two cows to Edward's one; wherever the sound of her voice reached, she was the boss." Under her careful guidance, the family prospered. Two of her daughters attended Fort Covington Academy; one taught school. The family were Methodists, though most of the Protestants thereabouts were Presbyterians.

Tom Armstrong, after spending eleven years in California and saving his money, returned to Westville and married Caroline Davis. They had four children. Members of this family married into the Reynolds, Shannon, McGibbon and Costello families.

Billy Armstrong married Eliza Douglas, whom he met at New Ireland, across the line in Canada. They had six

children who grew up. The eldest, Arthur W., spent most of his life in the West, as have his children. Luella married Adam Cushman. Their daughter Faith married George Chapman, lately supervisor of Westville, who is living in retirement in the former John Wright home. Edna married Robert Pendorf, a state engineer, and lives in Ballston Spa. Katherine is a teacher in the Malone schools. Effie married John C. Ellsworth, as described elsewhere. Her older sister, Margaret Boisse, after an adventurous life spent in the West, returned to die in Fort Covington in 1947. Ernest married Edna Hoadley, and their son Robert now lives on the McFadden farm, where the Armstrongs fire began.

Andrew Cahill was born in Ireland in 1832. Coming to this country, he married Mary O'Connor, a neice of Bridget Holden. They had two sons and two daughters. Daniel studied at Potsdam Normal School, taught school, then entered the Catholic Seminary and was ordained, being the only native of the Three Towns to become a priest. Father Cahill was pastor at Waddington and at Lake Placid, at which last place he died, mourned by a host of friends. His brother, William, spent most of his life in Malone. The daughters were Nellie — Mrs. Patrick McMorro — and Mamie — Mrs. Thomas O'Brien, of Massena. Mamie's son — Thomas J. O'Brien — was for some time manager of the Roger Smith Hotel in White Plains, New York. He frequently visited his home town. Andrew Cahill was a mild and friendly man, much respected as a neighbor and as trustee of St. Mary's church. His home was on the north side of the state road. He died there in 1903.

Nearby lived the Almond family, on the farm now operated by Joseph Lepage. John Almond, whose wife was Loretta Donnelly — still living — was well-known as a breeder and dealer in fine cattle, had an outstanding dairy, and farm buildings very noticeable for size and neatness. Will and Michael Almond had farms on the Snye. Michael's wife, Mary O'Brien, who survived her husband for many years, carrying on the farm despite much ill fortune, received admiration for her courage and industry. Of

three sons Jennings died in 1953, leaving six children. Emmet died in 1959, leaving one son, and Harold, who never married, lives in Bombay.

The Courtney family first came to Quebec in the days of the Famine of 1847, when the dreaded "ship fever" — typhoid — took the lives of many immigrants, and in many cases left orphans who were adopted by kindly French Canadians. James Courtney made his way to Fort Covington, but for years returned annually to Quebec City to see his aged mother. He married Mary McCarthy and they had four sons — Thomas, David, John and Will — and two daughters — Nell (Mrs. Joseph Smith), and Mary (Mrs. Frank Cosgrove). The sons all went to Illinois, where they established homes in Chicago and Moline, where the boys were employed for years in the John Deere Harvester Company. Will married Florence Hughes of Trout River. John never married. He used to return East, each summer, to visit his parents, and to practice his favorite recreation — fishing in the St. Lawrence. He now lives permanently in the family home on High Street with his sister Mame, the widow of Frank Cosgrove, who died in 1957.

Frank was the son of Hugh Cosgrove, who came here from Canada, and lived on the Malone Road. Frank went into business with his father-in-law, who, for a generation, had been one of the Fort's two undertakers, as morticians were called in those days.

James Courtney had a sawmill in the early days, and, later, a prosperous furniture business, besides the undertaking. The business now belongs to Erwin Phillips. His carriage-building factory on Mill Street occupied the site of the early Streeter tannery, and part of his building had once, according to Seaver, been located on Water Street, where it had been a hotel or saloon, conducted by Dutcher, and later, by Herman Stafford. Mr. Courtney was a quiet, dignified man, who never sought publicity, but was content to maintain a comfortable home, and to conduct an honest business. His wife, too, was reticent, devoted to hospitality in her home, and to St. Mary's Church, of which her husband was a trustee for years.

One of the best-known and best-liked citizens of the Fort for a long time prior to his death in 1928 was Dennis F. McCarthy, the village tailor. He was born in Prescott, Ontario in 1860, a child of Cork parents, as was his wife, Katherine Hearn, whose mother was a Hennessy. The McCarthy's had twelve children, the only one of whom who spent her adult life in the village being Nellie, the wife of Steven Taillon. Charles, Patrick and William were in World War I, and Charlie died in 1921 as a result of war injuries. Jack lives in Syracuse. David died in 1944, and Pat in 1953; no children. The oldest daughter, Frances, and her sister, Carmel, married Drs. Marshall and Mahady, respectively, and lived downstate. Mary A. — "Minnie" — was a public health nurse in Utica until 1959, when she retired and came to live with her sister Nellie in her commodious home — the former James Will house on Salmon Street. Den McCarthy and his wife, who died when only 46, were very jolly, and were extremely popular in all social affairs. The happy atmosphere of their home was reflected in the lives of their children. It is doubtful that Fort Covington ever had another such popular postmaster as Nellie Taillon, who held that office for nineteen years. It is sad to contemplate the disappearance of the McCarthys.

William N. Cowan and his wife — Katherine Stafford — were both of Northern Irish descent. They were born about 1840, and spent their whole lives in Fort Covington. Mrs. Cowan conducted a genteel ladies goods store on Mill Street, where the family also had its home. Five daughters grew to womanhood: Mary Jane (Mrs. Westley of Ontario); Helen (Nell) of Fort Covington; Charlotte ((“Lottie”), who became Mrs. Ross Manley of Indianapolis; Martha (“Mattie”), who stayed with her mother in the home and shop; and Georgia, who graduated from Pratt Institute and became an art supervisor in New York City public schools. Nell was married, first to Sheridan (“Shed”) Kimball, and later to Dan Grant. She had two sons — James Kimball and Wendell Grant. Mr. and Mrs. Grant lived in their later years in the former T. T. Kimball home on Covington

Lane. The daughters all inherited the mother's geniality and keenness of intellect, who had led to her interest in her village and neighbors. Mrs. Cowan left a large collection of clippings, and some notes in her own handwriting, from which material much pertinent information in this book has been derived. Mrs. Cowan's granddaughter, Mrs. Rodman F. Nye, is a graduate of Butler University, and lives in Olean, New York, where her husband is a department manager in Clark Brothers (engineering) Company. The Cowan family were loyal Methodists and active in church work.

One of the most prevalent names in Fort Covington is McElwain. The McElwains have been here for nearly 150 years. When John, Samuel and George arrived from County Cavan, John and George built houses on Drum Street, one a hotel. John's son, George, married Gracie Campbell in 1851. Their son, Fred, married Katherine Grant. One of Fred's sons — George — married Eva Smiddy, who had five children. Among these is Glenn, whose wife is the former Barbara Anderson, granddaughter of Dr. Anderson. Mrs. McElwain is on the staff of the Salmon Central School; her home is on the Woolen Mill road; they have three children. A sister of George is Miss Gertrude, who has lived since 1926 in the large house at the northwest corner of Pike and Chateaugay Streets; this house was built by Ed Tolman, whose wife was a daughter of Elisha McElwain. Clifford Tolman, who was born there and went to school in the Academy, now lives in Potsdam. A daughter of George is Shirley Cook, of Burke, who, as a student in the local high school, won a state scholarship. She made a splendid record at Cornell until she was forced to abandon her course as a result of a terrible accident which nearly cost her life. Fortunately, she has recovered completely, married, and is now happily engaged in the family tradition of farming, but in another area.

The original Samuel McElwain was often referred to as "old Sam." He had four sons — Henry, Allen, George and John — and three daughters — Mrs. James Macartney, Mrs. Judson Ryan, and Mrs. Robert Stafford. His sons had

large and prosperous farms on the Bombay and Hogansburg roads, though several later moved into the village. One of them — George — bought the large brick house, opposite the Catholic church; the house was built by Thomas Creed in his heyday as a prosperous merchant. George McElwain's wife was Kate Stafford, who survived him, and lived until her death in the big house, accompanied by her daughter, Dorothy ("Dottie"). The big house is now the home of St. Mary's School. George's only son, George, left the village at the time of the San Francisco earthquake and fire in 1906, which gave young men like George sudden opportunities which otherwise they would have had to wait years for. George Jr.'s career in the West is told in a later chapter.

Allen McElwain, retiring from farming, moved into the house on Chateaugay Street, where he died. His widow, Nell Brown of Bangor, lost her life in the fire which practically destroyed that house in June, 1950. There were no children. Henry's daughter Edith — now Mrs. George Reid — is still living in Illinois.

John W. had a long, adventurous and useful life. In his early years, he lived for several years in Walla Walla, Washington. Returning East, he conducted farms in each of the Three Towns. He married Sarah Jane McCarthy of Bombay, who died while their only daughter Jane was a little girl. Jane married Roland C. McIntosh, who came to this area as a teacher in the Indian school on Drum Street. When Jane became a widow, her father bought the former Grange house on Chateaugay Street, where Cameron Farquhar now lives. There John and Jane lived on in happy retirement until October, 1940, when John died at the age of 86. With John's dry wit and Jane's droll humor — which triumphed over her crippling physical affliction — their home was never dull, and when they passed away, they left a void in the community life where they will be long remembered. Blanche, only daughter of William McElwain, is principal of a school in Massena.

Walter Stafford and John McCabe came over from County Cavan about 1830, and settled in Bombay. The

McCabes have been there ever since, but the Staffords moved to Fort Covington, where Robert, Walter's son, ran the hotel on Water Street for years. It enjoyed a large patronage until well into the present century.

Simon Gleason and his wife, Nancy McMahon, were early settlers on Drum Street, coming from New England, but the family was originally from northern Ireland. Simon's father came to Drum Street in 1814, and built a house. Their land adjoined that of Thomas Smythe, and they sold the land on which the Drum Street school was built in 1860. They had seven children. Levi, born in 1842, served in the Civil War, and, after its conclusion, returned to his home. He inherited the farm and built a new frame house. Levi's daughter, Nellie, married Thomas Smythe, of St. Anicet, and their son Levi Smythe, unmarried, lives on the farm today. Levi Gleason's brother Simon lived on the State Road, at the bend where the road to the Indian Reservation turned off. The house has been recently burned.

Simon's daughter Lola married William Smith, son of Charles L. Smith and Parthena Kelley of Bombay. Father and son were prosperous farmers, living on the Stewart Howard farm just south of the corporation line on the Moira road. Will, particularly, was noted for his market-gardening, which he engaged in for years, most recently in Bradenton, Florida, where he went to live about 20 years ago; Will died there in 1960, and his wife survives him. Their son Harlow was principal of Franklin Academy, Malone, and their daughter Dorothy is the wife of Walter Smallman, postmaster of the village. Augustus J. lives on the former Stiles Stevens farm. His wife is Mary Ann Gregor. They have six young children. Thomas Smythe lives on the former Dave Smith farm.

A family long numerous and prominent in Fort Covington were the Fosters, who came from Ireland into the town when the place was a wilderness, probably in the 1830s. They settled, and their descendants continued to live for nearly a century on farms in the central part of the town, on the road from Merricks to Bombay. Three brothers — Thomas, John and James — had prosperous

farms and substantial homes in that neighborhood. Thomas had four children. James and his wife lived to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary, but, some years previous to that, they had moved to Stowe, Vermont, following their older sons, who had gone into business there. They had five sons — John, Allie, Sherrie (Sheridan), Herman and Walter. Sherrie was the only one who passed his life in this vicinity. He worked for Farquhar Brothers, and was known and liked by everyone for miles around. He moved to Massena in 1916, and died there in February, 1962. His wife, Elizabeth Foy, survived him. They had three children. He ran a plumbing business, was active in the Chamber of Commerce, and was a village trustee.

Richard Grange kept a tinsmith shop on Water Street. He lived next to the hotel on Chateaugay Street, and by extreme thrift accumulated a good estate. His wife was a pillar of the Episcopal church. He had two sons, Alex and Henry, and two daughters — Martha and Mary, all born in the 1840s. Mary married a Mr. Dodge, and moved to the West. Her daughter Florence attended the Academy, and, after graduating, taught school in western New York. She went to California, married a Mr. Huber, and died there. I believe a daughter is still living in the West.

Another Irish Protestant family were the McCarters, who lived on the Drum Street road. Sarah is listed in the 1925 census as 82 years old, and was the mother of Ida, Florence and Arthur.

The McMasters lived in the north part of the town, though they came originally from Canada. William McMaster ran a farm on Drum Street. His mother was French, as was his wife, Mary Duhesme. They moved to Springfield. Jimmie McMaster, whose sad death by drowning at Hopkins Point aroused wide-spread sorrow, was at the time living at Jack Welch's in Kilbain, though going to school in the Fort.

Edward K. Brushey, second husband of Dora McKay, is listed in the census returns as Irish, and from Canada. He is now living in Arizona.

George Higgins was a prosperous farmer in the Deer River neighborhood. His wife was "Sebe." After her death,

George moved into the village, where, rather than be idle, he continued to work by the day, though he was well-to-do. He died in 1922.

Thomas Mulvihill was a Civil War veteran, and, because of that fact, was given minor town offices in the succeeding years. He lived with his family on the Malone road, just beyond the church; but none are here, now.

Thomas Creed was one of Fort Covington's leading merchants and business men in the second half of the 19th century. His family came from Ireland, and he was probably born in this village, as his brother William F. was born here in 1847. Thomas married into the prominent Tuthill family, which affected a change in his social standing, and helped his start in business. It also changed his religious affiliation, and to an extent dampened his Irish enthusiasm, except on St. Patrick's Day, when, it is said, he would give full vent to the ancient battle cry of the O'Creedon's — "Shan-a-wuhill" — and woe to those who disputed his path. At all other times, Mr. Creed was a dignified and even austere man, highly respected by all. He built and lived in the fine brick house on Chateaugay Street, which is now St. Mary's parochial school. Business reverses overtook him in the 1880s, and the family moved to Malone. His children were three sons — William, Thomas and Edward — and two daughters, Mamie (Mrs. William Anderson), and Hattie (Mrs. Harriet Whitmore), a prolific writer in Colorado. She died there in 1961. Only William remained in the Fort. He married Margaret Cameron, kept a store in the Congdon block and was postmaster for one term. William F. Creed, Sr. — brother of Thomas — was a banker and broker in New York City, and at one time, was state banking commissioner. He died in 1903, while on a visit to his native town.

George Donahue lived on the Moira road, just outside the corporation. An affable, helpful man, he did not concentrate on farming, but sold various products and made a wide circle of friends. He engaged in politics as a Republican, and served as sheriff of Franklin County. His wife was Mamie Dewey; there were no children.

Finally, there was one Irishman in the village who was unique — an atheist, or at least an agnostic. This was Malachi Barry, who lived in the brick house on the Hogansburg road, adjoining the bridge over the Little Salmon River — a bridge which has perpetuated his name. He was doubtless born in Ireland, for nowhere else is the name Malachi used, whereas to the person of Irish descent, familiar with his country's past, "Malachi" is an inspiring name, the name of the king who "wore the collar of gold that he won from the proud invader," as Thomas Moore sings in "Let Erin Remember." Whatever was the cause of Mr. Barry's peculiarity about religion, it does not seem to have restricted his popularity. He was an able businessman, courteous and jovial. He died in the 1890s, leaving a daughter — Mrs. Harriet Patterson — who lived until 1922.

Frederick Dimond may have been Irish; his wife, Nancy Kelly, certainly was. They were married in 1867. He took up a farm on the Dundee road and built the brick house in which his grandson James now lives. Frederick had two children — Nellie, who married George McKenna, and Fred, Jr., who married Eva Hamilton. He was cashier of the Fort Covington Banking Company, which operated between 1919 and 1934, as told elsewhere. After its closing, Fred and his wife moved to Bangor, where they died, leaving no children. James Dimond specializes in pure-bred cattle.

In the southern part of Fort Covington, there lived quite a number of Irish Catholic families, none of whose descendants are there today. The road running south from about a half-mile west of Fort Covington Centre to Moira is still often called "the Donovan road," after the largest farm and family living on it about 75 years ago.

David Donovan, born in Cork in 1794, and his wife, Catherine Carney, arrived in the town in the early 1830s, after a strenuous voyage from Ireland to Quebec, which cost them the life of their eldest son, who was buried at sea. It must be said here that deaths on those overseas voyages were numerous and not altogether unavoidable; they were often a result of deliberate delays and callous profiteering in food by tyrannical shipmasters.

David Donovan and his wife were Irish-speakers and never really mastered the American tongue. Their grandson, William, whose duty it was, when a boy, to go to their little cabin each evening and help with their "chores," used to say that he usually found them seated by their hearthfire, smoking and animatedly talking in Irish and laughing — no doubt discussing their early life back in the Old Country.

David got a little piece of land in the woods, which he had to clear of trees before he could even find a place for his cow to feed. There they raised one son — Patrick, born in Ireland in 1831 — and five daughters — Mary (Mrs. Maurice Daly), Hannah (Mrs. Dan O'Brien), Margaret (Mrs. John McQueen), Elizabeth (Mrs. Henry Hughes), and Catherine, who died young. The younger ones were born in this country. David died in 1877, after which the widow lived at her son's home, now occupied by Alden Bashaw. She died in 1887, and their monument is in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Patrick Donovan was a farmer all his life, and rarely left home, except for a couple of trips to Iowa; one when he was quite a young man, when the railroad ended at Galena, Illinois, and he and his companion—John McQueen —walked the rest of the journey. He spent two years (1855-56) in California, not in the mines, but on two dairy farms near Sacramento. Having earned enough to buy his father's farm and start married life, he returned as he had gone — by ship to Panama, and afoot over the Isthmus, his savings, in gold pieces, in a belt under his clothes.

It may be added, parenthetically, that quite a few men from this section went to California "to seek their fortune," and most of those who went never returned. They seem to have gone via the Isthmus; there are no "covered wagon" stories in our records.

Patrick bought his father's farm, and, little by little, as opportunity offered, he added to it the farms of other families who lived here briefly. These included Peter Spink, who came from Ontario and returned there; also a man referred to as "Nowlan," the foundation stones of whose

cabin could still be seen, quite recently, on "the flats" half-way toward Hannibal Ellsworth's; also, the O'Mahonys. At the west end of the Donovan farm, a half-filled cellar marks the birthplace of Cornelius O'Mahony — later called Mahoney — one of the most remarkable men ever connected with this section. A sketch of his life is presented elsewhere in this book.

The Donovan farm and woodlots eventually included nearly 200 acres and supported a dairy of over 50 cattle. At the time when the family moved to the village, in 1888, the farm was one of the most productive in the county, and had a commodious new farm house and large barns connected in a solid structure. Mr. Donovan was a stickler for good care of his property, and was himself an excellent handler of tools; he boasted that he made all his own farm wagons, except the iron furnishings. Stern in his manner, he yet had a good sense of humor when with intimate friends, and with his employees, many of whom worked for him for long periods. After moving to the village, he was trustee of St. Mary's church for some years, and, a Democrat in the Republican community, was engaged to supervise the care of the village roads and sidewalks. Self-educated, he sacrificed to give his children opportunity, with the result that six of his ten children were teachers, and three attended college.

His wife, Mary, was a daughter of John Barry and Margaret Dwyer from County Cork. Her parents evidently arrived in Boston rather than Quebec; for one daughter was born in Providence, Rhode Island; Mary herself in Amsterdam, New York, in 1836; and they lived for a while in Auburn, New York, before coming north. Mary was married on Dec. 31, 1854, and was the only one of her family left behind when her parents moved to Kansas in the 1870s, following their son, Jim, who spent his active life as a conductor on the Union Pacific Railroad. John and Margaret Barry are buried at the Catholic cemetery at "the Elbow," near St. Mary's, Kansas. Mary died on October 26, 1913. She was a gentle woman, averse to publicity, devoted to her family and her church.

Patrick and Mary Donovan had seven sons: David H., James Madison, William, George, Thomas, Clarence and Herbert; and three daughters — Margaret (Mrs. James McMillan), Mary (Mrs. John E. Rogers), and Agnes (Mrs. Fred T. Moore). Herbert is the only survivor to the present time.

The only one of the family who lived permanently in Fort Covington was William John, who was a leading merchant in the village for over 40 years. He was born in 1860, and died in 1944 at the home of his only child, Verna, wife of Rev. Gordon B. Addie, in Cowansville, Quebec. Mrs. Donovan also died at her daughter's home.

William contemplated the study of medicine, and went for one year to Bellevue Medical College in New York, but gave up that plan because of eye trouble. He then entered the store of T. T. Kimball, to whose meticulous training he gave much of the credit for his own business success. After a venture in merchandising at Honesdale, Pennsylvania, he returned to the Fort to take over the Kimball building, and conducted his store until the early 1930s, making his home in the apartment above the store. Following the example of Mr. Kimball, he kept most minute accounts, and thought no labor too hard to satisfy his customers. He had a large Canadian trade, and many of his closest friends were in Canada, such as Brodie Gardiner, to whom he paid one of his last visits. He was also popular with the St. Regis Indians, and could talk slightly with them in their own language. Much of his trade, like that of other merchants of his day, was a form of barter. Much of it, too, involved an extension of credit, which too frequently was abused; and this, together with unfortunate confidence placed in investment advice, led to the closing of his business in 1934. He felt this keenly, and, in the years that followed, he insisted on paying every possible debt, even those of which he had been absolved. Mr. Donovan was characterized by a dignity of manner and courtesy to everyone. He took an active interest in all public projects in the community. During World War I, he was chairman of the town draft board.

In 1899, he married Miriam, daughter of George W. Paddock. Their long life together was a very happy one, for "Mame" in her prime years was a jolly woman, fond of entertaining. Every attention was lavished on their only child, Verna, at whose home they were to die, later on. Verna married Rev. Gordon B. Addie, then serving the local Episcopal church, and they have one daughter and one son. Rev. Addie had a distinguished career as chaplain of the Canadian forces in Europe in World War II. He has risen in the service of his church until he is now rector of the large Church of the Ascension in Montreal and canon at the Anglican Cathedral.

Thomas P. Donovan also followed merchandising in many parts of the United States — including Chicago, Oswego, Carthage, New York and San Diego. For a few years in the early 1900s, he and Minor W. Looby of Churubusco were in partnership in Malone, where Tom had got his first start in the famous old store of Greeno & Austin. He never married, and his last years were spent in Fort Covington, much of the time at the home of his close friends, Earl W. Scripser and Robert B. Regan.

David H. Donovan followed ranching in the southwest, where he is buried in Trinidad, Colorado. George spent his life around West Springfield, Massachusetts, where he is buried. Clarence graduated at the University of Michigan, read law with Frederick G. Paddock in Malone, and finally opened law practice in Chicago. He married Helen Martin and they finally settled in Detroit, where he died in 1929, and is buried there. He had three sons and a daughter, none of whom ever lived here. One of Agnes Donovan Moore's four children was born in Fort Covington on December 21, 1911, while his parents were visiting the old home village. He is now Father Gerald T. Moore, pastor of Sacred Heart Roman Catholic church, Bellevue, Washington.

The small farm adjoining the Donovan farm was occupied by John Hartnett and his wife. They had no children; the little framehouse has disappeared.

Next came the farm of John Curtin, now owned by Floyd Derochie. The house and other buildings appear

better kept up than almost any other old buildings in town. It is recorded that Mr. Curtin got stone for foundation walls from the abutments of a bridge that had washed away, and there was controversy over it. The Curtins had three sons — Matthew, Daniel and Cornelius — and four daughters — Ellen, Margaret, Bridget and Catherine. The sons all went to California, where they prospered. Cornelius' son, William, was a member of the California legislature, a few years ago; he was a rancher and fruit-grower in the fertile Sacramento valley. Ellen Curtin, a vigorous woman of strong character and forthright speech, whose "think-sez-I" was often heard, managed the farm for years after her parents' death; she then married David John O'Brien, and later moved to Hogansburg, where she was house-keeper for her brother-in-law, Alex A. Bero. Bridget married James Griffin. Catherine was the third wife of Alex A. Bero, the patriarch of Hogansburg, by whom she had one daughter, who died a child. Margaret never married.

A short distance to the south lived John McDonald and his wife, Bridget ("Bid") Keefe. John had a poor farm, on the edge of the sand plains; so he supplemented his income by playing the violin for country dances. Regardless of circumstances, he always drove handsome spirited horses, even after the couple, who had no children, moved into the village, where they ended their days in the house now occupied by William Mayville. John was a popular character — an entertaining talker and a clever fiddler, who was in great demand to "call off the sets" of the square dances which formed so large a part of the community entertainment in those days.

About a mile south, on the cross road leading from Avery's to Moira lived Daniel Griffin and his wife, Johanna Fitzgerald. They left Ireland during the terrible Famine of 1846-47, when the failure of the potato crop and the rapacity of the English landlords who used troops to hold back the peasants while grain was carried off to be sold, starved so many and drove so many more into exile that the population of Ireland was practically halved within four years; causing the London TIMES to exclaim triumphantly,

"Now the Irish Question is Solved!" The Griffins had four children born in Ireland, three of whom died of yellow fever at sea or in Quebec. After the family settled in Wolfs Swamp — two more daughters were born: Hannah, who, in 1870, married Charles Wilson; and Ellen, who married Daniel Keefe. There was also a son, James, who inherited his father's farm and passed it on to his son by his first wife, Jane McQueen. The son, Charles, sold the farm, and moved to Malone, where he died.

Hannah and her husband Charles Wilson lived for more than 50 years on their own farm near Fort Covington village where John Brill now lives. Their only adult son, George, followed farming for a time, then moved to the village, where he established a prosperous business in coal and building supplies. He married (1) Elizabeth Kelley, and (2) Mary Henry; there were no children. Charles Wilson's daughters were: Nellie (Mrs. Arthur Dowd) of Cleveland, Ohio; Carrie (Mrs. William Twaddle, of Burke), and Kittie (Mrs. Warren Mann, of Ravenna, Ohio). Each have children, but none of the children ever lived here.

Caroline and Katherine, and their cousin, Etta Keefe Reynolds, are the only living grandchildren of Daniel and Johanna Griffin.

On the Wolf Swamp road also lived Condons, Keefes and Mulaniffs, all Irish immigrants. "Aunt Nora" Condon, as she was universally known and respected, was the wife of John, who died while their children were small. The dauntless widow continued working the poor place during a long and straitened life, which brought her to her 90th year. More remarkable still, she kept with her her two sons — William and John — and her two daughters — Margaret and Kate — none of whom married, and all lived to ripe old age. It is difficult for modern people to picture the contentment and family affection that held such a pioneer family together for so many years. As the editor of the SUN wrote, on March 21, 1940: "Bill Condon . . . celebrated another milestone, his 92d in life, on St. Patrick's Day, at his home in Fort Covington Center, the same home

where . . . his father and mother enjoyed entertaining friends and neighbors, the whole year through . . . Bill is still the same genial kindly host. Sunday night, old friends and young gathered again to do him honor; about 25 men and women were there . . . Mrs. Richard Jock had made a birthday cake, and decorated it with 92 candles that Bill could not blow out with one breath, as years ago."

"Eddie" Keefe and his widowed mother lived near the Condons, and their lives bore the same stamp.

Thomas Mulaniff was a farmer in the Wolf Swamp neighborhood, but none of his large family are left here now. There was a news item recently stating that one of his daughters died this year (1962) in Arizona.

The family of McQueen dominated the western part of Westville for so long that it seems incredible that not only their ownership, but their very name can have so completely vanished from these parts; but such is the case.

Patrick McQueen and three brothers came from County Leitrim. His wife was Anna Morne, and they had twelve children, the older ones undoubtedly born in Ireland. John, the eldest, lived on a farm on the Coggin road, right at the Fort Covington town line. His wife was Margaret Donovan. They had five sons — William P., John E., David, Herman and Charles — all of whom except David spent their lives here. David went West, married there, but had no children; he was a commercial traveller, working out of Salt Lake City, and later, Glendale, California, where he died. William and John occupied adjoining farms, and worked together as farmers and stock and produce buyers. William married Addie Condon, daughter of Martin Condon, who lived west of him; they had several children, who all died in infancy. After Addie's death, Will married his cousin Florence McQueen. They lived a stormy life together in the old Briggs house in Fort Covington village, where Florence died demented. Will lived for a few years as a roomer at Mrs. "Tina" Creightons, but eventually went back to his old farm — then the property of Henry Santann, and there he died in 1940. John E. McQueen married Anna, daughter of Henry Long. There were no children. Anna, a

woman of superior refinement, spent much time in St. Petersburg, Florida, after John's death by tuberculosis. Ella married Michael Kinsella, and lived in Massena. Lizzie married John Hanna.

Thomas, second son of Patrick McQueen, married Mary Murphy. They had four sons — George, Frederick, Albert and Herbert — and three daughters — Clara (Riley), Florence (wife of William P. McQueen) and Anna (Cooney). Their farm, as well as those of James and Edward were on the south-north road ending at John McQueens. After her husband's death, "the Widow Tom," as she was always called, lived an active life for years, on her farm. She enjoyed the reputation of raising the finest turkeys in the county — a reputation she gained by personally escorting her flock from field to field, to fatten on the succulent grasshoppers! This avocation did not always find favor with her busy neighbors, but "the widow Tom" was able to defend herself.

Her youngest son, P. Herbert, inherited the farm, and evidently he also inherited his mother's energy. He traded on a large scale — first in farm products, and in his latter years in farms themselves. After his unexpected death in 1939, it became necessary for the probating of his will to advertise for sale no fewer than nine parcels of land in Westville and Fort Covington, embracing over 1,000 acres, much of which he had bought up at delinquent tax sales. He was an extrovert, a man of driving energy and ready wit, well-known and popular all over the region. He was the first Democrat in 70 years to be elected supervisor in Westville. In his will, he bequeathed \$2,500 to St. Mary's church, in whose cemetery the McQueens are buried. He had married Margaret McCaffrey, of Trout River; they had no children. A few years later, she married George McQueen, Jr. — son of George and Elizabeth Sullivan. This family lived in Springfield.

James McQueen, Sr. — son of Patrick — married Kate Kinsella. They had three sons and a daughter, Anna. James and Allen lived quietly on the farm, never marrying. They retired to Malone in their latter years. James, Sr., was a

lifelong sufferer from asthma, but, like many of his generation, he made no parade of his troubles, but died in harness.

George McQueen — son of Thomas — was a travelling salesman of a Michigan firm, and used to return to this neighborhood frequently. By his first wife — a Western lady, he had one daughter “Flossie,” (now Mrs. Glasgow, of Norwich, N. Y.) When this wife died he married Ella Mulhall, and they lived until her death in the former Lincoln house on Water Street, Fort Covington.

Patrick’s daughters were Mary (Mrs. John Johnston), Ann (Mrs. Wm. McKenna), and two who died young. Patrick’s brother James, S., married Mary Carlisle. They had five daughters, including Mrs. Frank Summerfield, Mrs. John Kelly and Mrs. Lyle McQueen. Edward Sr. — Patrick’s brother — married Mary Bagley. They had eight daughters and one son, James. Another brother, William, married Bridget Early. They had three sons — William, John and Thomas — and three daughters — Margaret, Mary Ann and Katie. William, Patrick’s son, had three children, who lived in Massachusetts. Some of the men rose to important positions in police work. Another of Patrick’s sons — George — married Elizabeth Sullivan; they had four sons and two daughters. Despite all these prolific families, there is not a person bearing the name of McQueen living today in the town of Westville. John McQueen received his farm from Francis Dulcino, an Italian, with whom he had lived for several years. George McQueen was born in 1849. He made his home in Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts, where he was deputy sheriff of Hampden County. He was later City Marshal until his death in 1905. His grandchildren still live there. William McQueen, Sr. was sheriff of Salt Lake City. Annie and Anne McQueen were twins; Anne was the mother of Floyd McKenna. The McQueens were generally large, powerful men. I recall my father, who was robust himself, telling that when Thomas McQueen was dying of rabies, it took six strong men to hold him in his bed.

About a mile west of Fort Covington Centre, there began an Irish settlement along the banks of the west branch of

the Big Salmon, which, in early days, had an abundant flow of water, supporting several mills. Patrick O'Brien came from Ireland and took up land there, as did Charles Parker, the father of Thomas Parker. The patriarchal O'Briens were buried in the old Catholic cemetery in 1881. They had three sons — Daniel, Thomas and James. A jocular story used to be told to the effect that, in summer evenings, the bullfrogs on one side of the stream used to set up a treble chorus: "Pork-O'Brien, Pork-O'Brien!:" their brethren on the other side would reply in a deep bass, "Parker, too! Parker, too!" The bullfrogs may still be there, but the O'Briens and Parkers are gone.

Daniel O'Brien married Hannah Donovan. They had five sons, and two daughters — Ella (Mrs. Sam Coggin) and Jane (Mrs. Jim Toland), both of whom lived in Burke. The oldest son — William — was for years the capable, well-known superintendent of the Franklin County Fair, as well as one of the most popular auctioneers in the north country. The other sons all went to Illinois. Both George and David became prominent attorneys in Chicago, while Albert and Allen were businessmen.

Thomas and James O'Brien married two sisters McCarthy from Canada. Their farms were side by side. Thomas' eldest son, Alfred, went West when a young man and never returned, except to visit. He was in business in Hutchinson, Kansas, whither the Tom Parkers also went. John Parker married Mamie Denneen. They had two sons, one of whom has been active in the Southwest as a radio and television entertainer. Thomas O'Brien, Jr. took over his father's farm, and later added to it the adjoining McGregor farm, which had been the Parker home. He thus acquired 365 acres. He remodelled both homes, and was one of the town's leading citizens until 1945, when he moved to Malone, where he died in 1960. His widow, the former Mary McGregor, is still living, tenderly cared for by their adopted daughter, Mrs. Agnes Amyotte.

Thomas O'Brien, Sr., had two daughters — Mary Louise (Mrs. Michael Almond) and Anna, who married (1) Wil-

liam Shannon, by whom she had one daughter, Elizabeth, now of Plattsburgh, and (2) George Flanders, of Plattsburgh.

David John — Thomas Sr.'s son — married Ellen Curtin; no children. His brother married Nellie Buckley. They had one daughter — Louise — who married John Fanning, and had five children. Mrs. Fanning is still living.

The family of James O'Brien, Sr., was practically wiped out in a diphtheria epidemic in the 1880s — seven of the children dying within a week. The only children left were James, Jr., who later carried on his father's farm, and his sister, Mamie. James married Elizabeth McDonough of Canada.

Mamie married Edward Black, son of John Black, a native of Ireland, who was a blacksmith, with his shop at Black's Bend, near the "Shirt-tail Bend," not far east of Bombay Corners. Edward Black was twice married, his second wife being a Reardon. His first family included seven children, one of whom — Clarence — was a very successful lawyer in New York City; he is said to have left his brother, Sam, of Dedham, Massachusetts, a bequest of \$200,000. John Black of Fort Covington Centre, who now conducts a plumbing business from the former butter-factory building there, is a member of Edward's second family.

Near the O'Briens was the farm of Frank B. Summerfield, who had no children. The Summerfield home was a popular meeting-place for the Irish immigrants, where they liked to gather on winter evenings to play cards, drink hard cider, and recount neighborhood gossip and the legends of the Old Country. Frank had gone to California in the "Gold Rush," and was one of the minority who came back. His sister Emma was a skilled dressmaker, who had her own establishment in Malone. She later married a "drummer" — travelling salesman — named James Corrigan, and lived in Dubuque, Iowa.

Further west was the Hart farm. William Hart was a dignified, scholarly man, not well adapted to the rough and rugged life on a backwoods farm. He spent much time reading, often to the neglect of his domestic work. This, of course, brought down on him caustic disapproval of his

more energetic neighbors. He was twice married, and his second wife, of the pioneer Doolin family, eventually became demented, but, following the custom of that simple age, she was not put in an institution, but was kept at home, cared for by her family, undoubtedly a severe strain on them. There were two children — Garret and Agnes. Garret was very gentlemanly and inherited his father's refinement and exceptional patience. Though neither father or son succeeded as farmers, they won wide respect, as evidenced by the fact that Garret was made the Democratic nominee for supervisor in 1894, and — more surprising, still — was elected, due to a Republican party feud which I shall explain later. After the death of the parents, Agnes, who was a very intelligent and attractive woman, went West, where she made a successful business career in San Diego, California. Later, she married Salathiel Morrow, of Mitchell, Nebraska. Garret died in Springfield, Massachusetts, where he lived in the Haines household for years. He, as well as his parents, are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Michael Reardon lived on the Hart road. He had a son Albert, and two daughters — Stella (Mrs. Joseph Kelley) and Mae, who died in Canada. Thomas Reardon and his wife moved from the "Irish Ridge" in Kilbain to a farm at Frye's Corners. They had several sons and daughters. Edgar graduated at Potsdam Normal, and became a teacher. He was principal of Saunders Trade School in Yonkers until his retirement in 1952, when he moved with his wife to Gouverneur, where he died childless in 1963.

In the Frye's Corners neighborhood there were several Keefe families. They were descendants of John O'Keefe and Elizabeth O'Mahony, pioneer immigrants from County Cork. Their daughter Bridget ("Bid") was born here in 1844, and died in 1940, following by a few years the death of her husband, John McDonald. After John's death, her brother, John D. Keefe, came to live with her in Fort Covington village. He had been a farmer near Frye's Corners. His wife was Bridget McGee of Huntingdon; they had six children. Their daughter Elizabeth married John Hughes and lives in Trout River. A brother, John, lives in Fort Cov-

ington village; his son Leon owns and operates his grandfather's farm, and his daughter Florence is Mrs. Duncan, also living here.

About 1900, there were three Daniel Keefes in the Deer River area, all farmers and members of St. Mary's parish. To distinguish them, they were called "Fat Dan," "Curly Dan," and "Little Dan." All were loyal members of St. Mary's church. "Little Dan" married Ellen Griffin, and they had three children: Wilbur, Etta (Mrs. James Reynolds), and Clarence, who is still living. "Fat Dan" never married; his two sisters — Liza and Katie — lived with him.

The Keefes who ran the power company were not related to these.

The Fort Covington tax list for 1928 — Bombay was not yet separated — shows a name, Edmund Cotter. He may have been the father of Frank, Tom and Mike, who were farmers living on the Irish Ridge (east-west road). Thomas J. married Eliza Lahey. His sister Ella married Tom Holden. Tom Cotter rented his farm in the 1880s, and moved to Massachusetts. Tom Cotter finally sold his farm — the last one occupied by a Cotter — and remained in Massachusetts until 1913, when he came "home" and spent his later years on the former Alex Smallman homestead at Dundee Lines, where he died in 1948. His daughter, Ethel, is the wife of Daniel Burke, formerly an administrator in the Cincinnati public schools; they usually spend their summers in Dundee. Their son Thomas is a playwright and magazine writer. Thomas Cotter Sr.'s brothers and sisters included Ella (Mrs. Martin Holden), Kate (Mrs. Canfield of Gouverneur), the father of Tim Cotter of Bombay, and a brother whose son Jim is a restaurant owner in Boston and has a son, Dr. Holly Cotter.

The Cotter farm adjoined that of the Fitzgeralds, who moved to Kansas eventually. Garret Fitzgerald married Eliza Donovan, and descendants still live in and about Manhattan, Kansas. John Fitzgerald lived in Hogansburg, where he was a customs officer under the first Cleveland administration. He married a daughter of William Hart. He had a popular personality, comfortable home and a large

family, mostly daughters. His eldest child — Etta — became Mrs. Harry Bowker. His youngest son was named Grover after President Cleveland.

Thomas Hamilton was born in Ireland in 1834, and arrived in Fort Covington in the 1850s. He had learned the miller's trade in Canada, and operated two different mills here, one of them being the old Gove mill on the Little Salmon. In 1888, he sold this to Archie McNair, and then moved to the large white house on Center Street, now used as a convent by the sisters teaching in St. Mary's School. He operated a small general store in the Eagle Hall Block. His wife Mary died in 1929. The children included two sons — George and Thomas — and four daughters — Martha (Mrs. William McMillan), Maude (Mrs. Butzer), Eva (Mrs. F. J. Dimond), and Ruth. Eva, the only one to live continuously in the Fort, died in Brushton, leaving no children. Thomas is still living, in Chelmsford, Mass.

Thomas Lowe, 1874-1953, was a widely-known and popular liveryman and horseman, whose last residence was the brick house on Chateaugay Street at the bridge — the house now occupied by Roger Brewer; there he conducted a gasoline station up to the time of his death. His wife was Bridget Hughes.

Lawrence P. Lynch was Fort Covington's leading butcher for many years, and in the days before Western beef began to undersell the meat of the local animals, "Larry" roved far and wide, pitting his knowledge — often concealed under a plentiful supply of jokes — against the hard-won experience of his farmer friends, to whom the sale of a cow or a few hogs was no laughing matter. In the meatshops of those distant days, the hammer found as ready use as the saw and the cleaver. Larry was twice married — first to Katherine Lowe, whose daughter Edna married Charles Lowe. Larry's son Charles married Meribel Rushlo, whose son, Merrill, now living in Malone, is cashier of the Citizens Bank branch in Brushton. Larry, late in life, took for his second wife Margaret Tyo, who had been for 32 years the "right-hand man" in Den McCarthy's tailor shop.

Bombay received the largest settlement of Catholic Irish proportionately, of any of the Three Towns, and still has the most Irish names. The Census of 1880 records the birthplaces of its 1644 inhabitants of that date as follows: State of New York, 1186; Canada, 266; Ireland, 99; New England, 78; England, 5; Scotland, 3; Wales, 1; miscellaneous, 6. But many of those born in Canada were Irish; and many of the Irish who came in the early days had passed on.

A big factor in the prevalence of the Irish in Bombay was the interest shown in them by William Hogan, the land agent, who spent his active life in the Three Towns. He sold them, on easy terms, sections of the higher ground, which was considered best for farming, at the beginning, because of its better drainage; later on, however, when the trees had been cut off, and roads built through the lower land, it became evident that the farms of many of the Irish were unproductive sandy soil, often stony as well. That doubtless was a big factor in many Irish of the second generation leaving. The Irish families were concentrated mostly in the eastern part of the town, where one section was long known as "the Irish Ridge"; interestingly enough, that same name was applied to a section about ten miles to the north, in Kilbain, Canada. The families in the two Ridges used to visit back and forth, work, play and marry with each other. In the beginning, many of them were Gaelic speakers; but the influence of their new environment and the lack of Irish teachers caused them to forget their ancestral tongue, and with it they dropped, in most cases, the racial "O" prefixed to their names.

William Hogan, the land agent, came into Franklin County in 1819, and was a prominent figure here for thirty years thereafter. He was supervisor of Fort Covington for four terms, member of the State Legislature in 1822, judge of the county court of common pleas in 1828, and member of Congress in 1831-33, but failed of re-election. In his later years, his fortunes apparently declined, for he ended his active career as a clerk in the Department of State in Washington, where he died in 1875. He married and had

a family, but there is no available record of any of his family living in the Three Towns. He is believed to have built and lived in the frame house on Covington Street, which used to be called the Wat Parker house. He had a house also in Hogansburg — which village is named after his father, as Bombay is named after his mother's birthplace in India. Hogan is described as "a strongly-built, black-eyed, black-haired man of rather aristocratic bearing, but kind and forbearing to the settlers." He had been given a superior education, and was a graduate of Columbia College. This in itself must have made him an object of awe to the unlettered immigrants with whom he dealt.

Irish families living in Bombay included — in addition to those already named — the families of Cavanaugh, Condon, Murphy, Shinnock, Brady, Sullivan, Bradley, Lantry, Daly, Doolin, Doonan, Croke, Foy, Scanlon, Connolly, Shields, Spillings, Maher, McEwin, and probably others. Many of these have died out, and their names may be found recorded only on tombstones, church records and legal conveyances — from which I have, no doubt, extracted only a minor portion of their story.

These numerous exiles from the Emerald Isle have certainly played a great part in the history of Bombay.

Michael Cavanaugh was born about 1782 in County Carlow. When he arrived from Ireland, in the early 1820s, he was already married and had one son — Michael, Jr. He opened up the farm in Bombay that is now owned by Allen French. While building his log cabin, he lived with another Carlow family, the Doolins, on the present Hogansburg road. The Doolins must have been the earliest immigrants; one of their daughters became Mrs. Thomas Parker; another, Mrs. William Hart. When Cavanaugh's log cabin burned, he replaced it with the substantial frame house that still stands there. These houses were the "receiving station" for many Irish who arrived in succeeding years; they would stay at Cavanaugh's until they could arrange for homes of their own. The house, too, was often used for the celebration of Mass, before there was a Catholic church at Fort Covington. Michael was known as an expert woodchopper —

an accomplishment prized in those frontier days. He died February 2, 1853, leaving three sons and four daughters. Michael, Jr., his eldest son, married Catherine Condon, and they spent their life on the farm now owned by Lyle Shoen. Michael, Jr.'s son David, married Anna Connelly; they lived first on the home farm; later, they bought the Matthews farm near Bombay village. They had four sons, of whom only Thomas remained in this vicinity; he is supervising principal of Salmon Central School; his sister Mary also teaches there.

Patrick and Edward Cavanaugh, sons of Michael, Sr., were storekeepers in Bombay village. Patrick's wife was Catherine Scanlon; Edward's, Bertha McMullen. They left no children. Margaret and Ellen married Condons, as told below. The others of Michael, Sr.'s family either died young or moved to Quebec.

The Condons came from County Cork. The original immigrant was Martin, Sr., who built his house on the farm now held by Walter Reardon. It is the last farm on the Ridge Road, south of Frye's Corners. Martin had three sons. William, the eldest, had three sons who did not remain here; Patrick went to California, James and Thomas to Massachusetts. Martin's other two sons — John and David — married, respectively, Margaret and Ellen Cavanaugh, daughters of William Cavanaugh. John's farm was one mile east of Bombay village. There were three sons and four daughters. The only one of the seven who remained in this section was Martin, Jr., who never married. He held practically every office in his town. None of his four sisters married. David, son of Martin, Sr., inherited his father's farm. He had two sons and five daughters. The sons went to Massachusetts, where one — Michael — became police captain in Westfield. The daughters all were teachers. Helen, the eldest, taught in Fort Covington Academy for a number of years, living at Mrs. Hetty Nevins'. From Fort Covington she went to Cazenovia, New York, where she became preceptress (vice-principal) of the Union School, holding that position until her death in 1940. After her death, her principal wrote for publication: "Cazanovia has met with an

irreparable loss in the death of Miss Condon. . . . You are fortunate young men and women, to have had such a teacher. Her influence over you was penetrating, unique. . . . In school, this influence was felt from the first grade to the last. . . . Though she lived primarily for the school . . . her practical sympathy extended to the aged, the sick and the unfortunate. . . . It is proposed to erect a bronze tablet in the schoolhouse to her memory."

Another daughter of David Condon — Catherine — joined the Sisters of St. Joseph, and taught for 54 years in their schools. Mary, a former teacher, lived until recently in Fort Covington village; and it is to her that I am indebted for these notes on her own family and its neighbors, of whom she writes "Immigrating at about the same time as my grandfather, and purchasing farms along the Irish Ridge were the Murphys, Reardons, Fitzgeralds, Shinnocks, Bradys, Sullivans and Keefes."

George M., son of John Condon, married Nellie Mears, of Fort Covington. He moved to Detroit, where he practiced law, and was on the Board of Education for 25 years; a high school there is named after him. His brother William married Margaret Mahoney, and lived in Los Angeles. They had three sons, the youngest of whom, George S., moved to Detroit. In World War I he served two years with the 32d (Red Arrow) Division of Michigan troops, overseas. Returning, he was employed for 30 years in the engineering division of the Public Works Department. Retiring in 1956, he moved to Palo Alto, Cal., with his wife Virginia, and their two sons and daughter, all of whom are in education.

Murphy families lived in the Cold Spring neighborhood and in Hogansburg. James was one of the first trustees of St. Patrick's church in Hogansburg, organized in 1834. He was born in Ireland, and lived on the present Ed Lantry farm; Tom succeeded him. Daniel B. — whose success is recorded in a later chapter — was born in Cold Spring. The name of Murphy has always been synonymous with hotel-keeping in Hogansburg. Floyd ran the present hotel on the state road for fifty years, and Theresa was in the hotel across the river, even earlier. Today, the Murphy Hotel, with

spacious grounds along the river, is still a family enterprise, but particularly the handsomely furnished home of Tom Murphy and his sister Teresa.

Lantrys have always been prominent in Bombay town, and are, today; Michael is the present supervisor. Their father was a shoemaker, who immigrated from Ireland in the 1820s. He followed farming, here. He had twelve sons, but I cannot account for all of them. His son Charles, who died in 1870, had retired to Hogansburg from his farm near Massena; his wife was Mary Ann Cuff. His son Tom, usually called "Big Tom," had a bakery opposite St. Patrick's rectory. "Big Tom" had three sons and three daughters — Ann (McKinnon), Nell (Hourihan) and Stella (Tozear). Charles, Jr., conducted a hardware store in the stone block which had been built and operated as a store by Henry Bowker. At the present time, two of Charles, Jr.'s sons — Edward and Donald — are running the store. "Little Tom" — son of Joshua — married Eliza, sister of Father Michael Brown. Tom's son Michael ran a store — later taken over by McKinnons, which in later years became a specialty store in baskets; it closed in 1961, after 50 years in operation. John L. lived on the farm now occupied by Latreille, near Cold Spring.

Unlike the Lantrys, the Dalys have long since left the north country. Their pioneers were Michael and Peter, not brothers, who came from Ireland in the 1840s. Michael's sons included Andrew, Peter (who died in 1903), Michael (died 1905), and Maurice, who died in Iowa about the same time. Two of these brothers married, respectively, Margaret Connors and Mary Donovan. Peter lived on the Trippany farm next to Bradleys. His children included John, Dan, Peter, William and Mary (Mrs. Shannon). John and Dan went to New York City, and had long careers in the city police force, John reaching the rank of chief inspector in 1918. Frederick J. Seaver knew him personally, and, in his history, he pays high tribute to "Honest John" Daly's record of loyal and efficient service, a credit to his upbringing. Michael had twelve children. His daughter Loretta mar-

ried James Sullivan, who was for a long time a blacksmith in Hogansburg. Grace married Harry Lantry; her three sisters married and live in adjoining towns. There are only two Sullivans in Bombay today, listed in the telephone book.

Abram Bradley came from St. Lawrence County. He had a fine farm at the junction of the Bombay cross road and the road to Fort Covington; the location is still often referred to as Bradley's Corners. I recall Mr. Bradley as a man of splendid physique, with piercing black eyes and black hair. His wife was Maria Kinsella. Their daughter Nellie married Bayard Russell, and lived to a bright old age at the home of her daughter (Mrs. Wilfred Ross), who has a fine U. S. government position as a confidential secretary in Washington. Julia's brother, Vincent, is on the staff of the New York Auto Department. Minnie Bradley married Jesse Lantry. She had no children, nor did her brother William.

The Shields family have played an outstanding part in the history of Bombay. Francis and Patrick, the pioneers, were born in Ireland; Patrick's wife — Nellie — is buried in St. Mary's Catholic cemetery in Fort Covington, as Bombay had no Catholic church at that time. Francis had two sons — William, who married Gertrude Hollenbeck, and John, who married Nellie Kelley. William had four sons — Francis, Harold, Lawrence and Walton. John had one son, Henry, and a daughter, Florence. Francis died in 1944, but his widow, Ruth Johnson, is still living. The Shields Brothers business began in 1878, and was incorporated in 1887. Jennie Shields married Thomas A. Sears, who established his own store across the street from Shields Brothers, and there was lively competition. The making of baskets, and, later, of moccasins, was gradually taken up, as I have described it elsewhere. The original Shields Brothers store was destroyed by fire in 1921. The Shields family have always been active, socially, and were notably fond of the resorts on Lake St. Francis, where they had cottages and eventually bought the former hotel property on Stanley Island. Harold Shields, son of Will, who is retired and lives in Maryland, visits there in summers.

Jeremiah Spillings married Mary Hart, who is buried in Fort Covington. He ran a hotel in Bombay Corners for years, and a farm nearby. His son John, who never married, continued the hotel. His younger son, Joe, married Blanche Harvey of Bangor, and moved to that town; their children are Marian (Mulvana), Harvey and Terry. Neil married Ellen Keenan and had two sons and one daughter. Will married Ella Parker, daughter of Charles Parker of Hogansburg; they lived in Rochester and had one daughter. The site of the Spillings Hotel is now occupied by a gas station. Anna married Neil Sullivan of Bangor; Ella married Henry Barber; Mary married Eugene Keenan.

James Foy lived on the McElwain farm, near the railroad. His wife was Mary A. Crowley. Their sons were Thomas and Charles. Charles married Ann Ward of Helena. James' brother Frank married Mary Griffith. They had eight children, of whom Hugh was one. His sons Elmer and Bert — unmarried — still cultivate the home farm.

Near them, in Kavanaugh Corners, lived the Crokes. The pioneer James Croke was born in Ireland. He had six sons and six daughters. His son John married Elizabeth Kavanaugh. Their daughter Mabel is the present town clerk. Patrick Croke also lived nearby. His son, James, lived in the West for a while, and his son Jesse was born there. Later, Jesse married Anna May Eldredge; there were no children. They live on the old Kinsella farm, adjoining the former Tom Reardon farm. Mr. Croke is in charge of the Agricultural Extension Service for Bombay.

Other Irish in Hogansburg included Frank Kernan, who owned a store, and whose daughter is the wife of Arthur Yops, who has a store on Church Street now; Dr. Charles McConnell, who, in addition to his medical practice, owned a farm on which he lived until his death; Tim McCarthy (1822-1905), and James Murphy (1818-94), a Cork man whose wife Bridget was from Sligo.

There were numerous Scanlons in Bombay in the early days. Tombstones in St. Mary's cemetery include those of Michael, 1801-88, his wife and five children; Catherine, wife of John Murphy (1812-89); and several children. Kate

Scanlon, one of the twelve children of John and Johanna Daly, married Pat Cavanaugh, a storekeeper in Bombay Corners; she died in 1957. Her brother Will married Jannie Niles; they had five children. Brigham Scanlon lives at the Corners, where he deals in poultry and dairy products. His wife was Grace Doonan.

Other Doonan women were married to James Mulvana, Evert McElwain, Dale Harvey, Floyd Scanlon and Mr. Kaiser, of Messena.

Edward Hackett was a prosperous farmer, and his son Francis grew up here. Other Hacketts were Will, Ed and David, a blacksmith in Hogansburg. John Hackett lived on the Ridfe, near John Fitzgerald; he had two sons, George and Dan.

The Dohertys left early, selling their farm to Ernest Reynolds; but the Cavanaughs farmed until about 1919.



Log Cabin in Westville. Typical of pioneers' houses

9

THE SCOTCH—AND OTHERS

Scotch settlers were not as numerous in the Three Towns as across the border, where, as Robert Fraser has demonstrated in his excellent book "As Others See Us," Highlanders played a dominant role. However, various Scotch families have lived here from our earliest times, and some of them are here today.

I have told elsewhere of the part played by the Robertsons and Buchanans in the early milling industry at Fort Covington and St. Regis. They were not all millwrights. Patrick Buchanan, born in Scotland in 1803, had a farm on the Snye, which was continued by his son James, who died there in 1888. His family, consisting of his second wife — Euphemia McDonald, of Huntingdon — and five daughters, moved into the village, where they lived on Chateaugay Street (near St. Paul's Church) until 1908, when Mrs. Buchanan died. Four of the girls grew to womanhood, and all became teachers. Only the eldest — Elizabeth — married; to Asa Wittaker, of Norfolk, New York. Her son Donald is an inspector for the Atomic Energy Commission. Elsie taught seven years in Fort Covington Academy, later went West, and now lives with her sister Jessie in Laguna Beach, California.

Meantime, two of the four children of the first James Buchanan family lived in Fort Covington, most of their lives, and were active and popular residents. These were Henrietta, who married Edwin Hollenbeck, and John, who married Maude Hollenbeck. John had a grocery store in the Fort for a while, which he sold to Dan Grant in 1920, when he moved to Vermont, reversing the century-old trail of our pioneers. Still later, John and his brother-in-law, George Hollenbeck, established a glove factory in Lisbon, New Hampshire, where both have since died.

Nearly all the family mentioned above are buried in Elmwood Cemetery.

The early Creightons all lived on the Malone Road which was long called Creighton Street. The patriarch was William Creighton, born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1779, emigrated to Salem, Washington County, New York, and from there to our town in 1799. He married Martha Cooper of Constable, and built a log cabin across the road from the present Creighton house. He had ten children, mostly sons, and all born in the log cabin. George, the youngest, was born in 1822. George built the large frame California house which still stands, a graceful house, reminiscent of the days when lumber was cheap and labor was plentiful. His son, William D., was born in that house on August 25, 1869, and died on April 2, 1961, in the handsome modern house which he built, at the bend of the road, in 1935. William D. was twice married, and left one son, William III, who has been working for the government in Plattsburg. Mr. Creighton's first wife was Wilhelmina Kingsley, and they lived for some years on Chateaugay Street, when he was postmaster. He also conducted a grocery business, and was well-liked by all. He never gave up the farm, and none but a Creighton has owned it. John, Robert and William II lived on adjoining farms. William II was the father of "Abie" Creighton, who was long a leading man in the village, and who was twice married — once to Maria Streeter, later to Stella Lincoln. Garland Creighton, grandson of John, now lives in Moira. Still living in the modern Creighton house is the former Beatrice McDonald, second wife of William D.

Of the Farlingers, who played such a prominent part in Dundee, only a few came over the Line. Nicholas the Second, "the best-known Farlinger of Dundee pioneer stock" (I quote Robert Fraser), had ten children. The eldest — James Robert — married Harriet McPhee in 1878. His sister Barbara married Henry B. McElwain, Janette was married to William Hawkins "a mill owner of Fort Covington," and Thomas married Mary Jessie Bisney, of a French family who lived on the Snye. Charles M. — Nicholas' seventh child — married Jane Fraser; they had three children, the second of whom is Dr. Anderson Farlinger.

James R. Farlinger moved from Dundee to the farm on the Deer River road, just outside of Fort Covington village, which his father-in-law, Donald McPhee, had bought some years before. There he raised his family of three daughters. The only one now living here is Harriet (Mrs. W. B. Grant). Donald McPhee died at his daughter's home in 1897, and is buried under an imposing monument in Elmwood Cemetery, for which he donated the land. Later, the Farlingers moved into the village, and bought the large house on High Street, where Harriet Dupree now lives. Robert McPhee was a weaver who came from Paisley, Scotland, and set up looms in his house located on the Little Salmon.

Dr. William Macfie, whose career is summarized in a later chapter, was doubtless a McPhee of another Scotch family.

Robert Grant lived on Drum Street. He was the father of Hetty and Dan, who were known and liked by everyone in Fort Covington over a long span of years. Dan died in 1957, at the age of 95. At different times he "kept store," ran a livery stable, held local offices and engaged in other ventures; his unfailing good humor and general spirit of helpfulness will always be remembered by those who knew him. Dan was twice married; his second wife being Nell Cowan, widow of Sheridan ("Shed") Kimball; her son, Wendell, still lives here. Paul Grant lived on a farm on Drum Street most of his life, but ended his days in the village; he was survived by two daughters. Isabel married Joseph Bisney. William married Mary Jane Smart. Sarah, sister of Paul, became Mrs. Rodney Russell.

After William's death, the widow married Frank Nevin, by whom she had one son, "Sherry," who lived in New England. Her first son, William B. ("Bert") Grant spent his life in the mercantile business, beginning in Springfield, Massachusetts, where he married Lizzie Wight. They came to Fort Covington, where they lived for years in the house on Chateaugay Street, now occupied by Mrs. Francis Taillon. Bert conducted a very neat men's furnishing store on Water Street, opposite the Dempsey store. In his calm way, he was a stabilizing influence in the community, always to be relied

on. After Lizzie's death, Bert married Harriet Farlinger, who survives, living in a house on the site of a factory which Bert once built. Bert died in 1955, aged 87. Harland Horton's grandmother was Margaret Grant, born in Kilraig, Scotland, who came here as a girl. She worked for Dr. and Mrs. Ora F. Paddock for eighteen years, and there married Philemon Polley in 1859. Their daughter, Sarah, married Edson J. Horton in 1880, and died in 1940 at Massena at the home of their son, Harland, who is County Historian of Franklin County and a resident of Fort Covington since 1958.

Colburn Grant came from Ontario and married Margaret, daughter of Alexander Wright, of Westville. He left there soon after, and went to California to dig for gold. After several years he returned, evidently successful. He bought a large farm, just across the iron bridge north of Westville Corners. But Mr. Grant had contracted tuberculosis in the mines, which caused his death in 1897. His widow, who had no son of her own, continued farming with the help of a faithful helper — Edward Sharkey. Mrs. Colburn Grant was a woman of intrepid courage and was renowned as probably the finest horsewoman in the North Country. She died in 1937.

The Farquhars and Camerons were not among the early settlers in this area; they came from Quebec. George Farquhar was in business in Fort Covington in 1885. With his brother, James, he established the hardware firm of G. H. & J. Farquhar at the corner of Water and Mill Streets, which is a landmark in the village to this day. Later, George became seriously crippled by rheumatism, from which he was confined in a wheel chair for years. But, with indomitable Scotch courage, he carried on, establishing a useful and thriving "Cash Bazaar" in a small shop on the west side of Water Street. There, with the assistance of his pleasant wife, Dolly Bradford, he met the community's demand for novelties, toys and souvenirs, some of which are doubtless in use today. Jim Farquhar was twice married. His first wife was Edith Parham of Rockburn, Quebec, by whom he had two sons, Herbert and Neil. Herbert worked in the hardware

store. He married Alice Cunningham. They had two sons who live away, as does Neil, who is with Alcoa, in Wenatchee, Washington. Ed and Jack joined their brothers in the family store, and for a generation, were — along with Fred Reynolds, of the Matthews hardware — the indispensable plumbers and repair men who “kept the homes going” in our trying climate. Ed’s wife, Miss Anderson of Rockburn, Quebec, died in 1957, leaving three children, who live away. Jack married Mary (“Polly”) Cameron, who survives, one of the few gracious hostesses left from the earlier age. They had one son, Cameron I., who is married to Gilberta McMillan, of Huntington. Cameron and his mother share the former Grange house on Chateaugay Street, and he still conducts the hardware store, which is doubtless the longest-established business still in operation in Fort Covington.

In contrast to the great number of Camerons and Frasers listed in “As Others See Us” as living just across the Line, there were few of those names who made their homes in the Three Towns.

James Yeo Cameron — “Jim Y” or “Black Jim” — was a well-known figure in Fort Covington in the closing years of the 19th century. He lived in the long house on Center Street, diagonally across from the Denneen home, and the atmosphere of both homes was — except for the absence of boys at Camerons — equally happy, musical and hospitable. Mr. and Mrs. Cameron had three daughters. Grace, the eldest, never married. She was a trained nurse who rose to a high place in her profession, but retired to care for her mother, and then, for some years, for her sister Bess’ motherless son. Elizabeth taught music and academic work until she married Harmon L. Remmel, a prominent businessman of Little Rock, Arkansas. “Bess” died in the 1940s, leaving one son, Harmon, Jr., now living at Fayetteville, Arkansas, who remembers his childhood days in the Fort, which he visits, and writes frequently to the SUN. Mabel married Dr. J. W. Blackett, and spent her life in the brick house on Covington Street, which, at her death in 1960, she willed to the Presbyterian Church Corporation, who sold it to James Dempsey.

Mr. Remmel is making a careful investigation of his Cameron relatives and he is quite convinced that Daniel Ross Cameron, who lived in Fort Covington at one time, but went to Chicago, where he became wealthy and influential, was not a brother of Jim Y, as Seaver was told. Mr. Remmel believes that the only living Canadian Camerons related to him are the children of the late Wellington Ault Cameron, of Toronto. One of this man's brothers, Dr. John William, practiced medicine in the United States — possibly at Fort Covington; he married Elvira Mears, and their daughter, Flora Isabella, was born in the Fort in 1862. Another brother was James Chalmers, who married Louisa Streeter, and their daughter, Caroline Isabella, was born in the Fort in 1862. These two ladies — cousins — lived together in Pasadena, California, where Daniel Ross had a palatial home.

Duncan Cameron was the proprietor of the American House Hotel when it was in its heyday, about 1900. He made an ideal host and was the promoter of many festive local occasions. He and his wife had three daughters — Margaret (Mrs. William T. Creed), Flora (Mrs. T. Chisholm), and Mary (Mrs. H. John Farquhar).

John Cameron lived on a farm in Westville, which was later owned by John Stark. His youngest son, William E., graduated at Cornell, and became a successful lawyer in the Far West, where he died in 1952 at Long Beach, California.

Tom Fraser, 1853-1939, was the well-known baker of Dundee Lines, who, with his jovial wife, lived in a house just inside the Fort Covington limits, on the west bank of the Salmon; the bakery adjoining the house was actually in Canada; and Tom's business — as Robert T. Fraser describes it in detail — "had an international flavor." The popular couple had one child, a daughter Etta, who married Howard S. Potter of Brushton, and still lives there.

Alex Fraser lived for a few years in Fort Covington, as manager of the feedstore on Covington Street, just east of the depot. I believe he was in partnership with Charles Dempsey. His wife was in much demand as a nurse.

Donald Chisholm and his wife, Nancy McLean, came to Fort Covington about the middle of the last century.

Their son, Thomas, universally called "T.," 1867-1954, was a lifelong resident of the village and an active and helpful participant in every worthwhile civic enterprise undertaken here during his adult lifetime. He worked successively in the L. G. Whitney grocery store, the Kelsey store, his own store, the Fort Covington Baking Company, and as an insurance agent. He was practically a fixture on the Board of Education, being its clerk for years. He was postmaster under the Taft administration, and an active worker for the Aetna Fire Company. In all those capacities, T. was of greatest value because of his unfailing courtesy to all, his cheery good humor and his sound judgment. His wife was Flora Cameron. One daughter, Anne, married Kenneth B. Grant, who came from Montreal. Anne is on the staff of the Salmon Central School, and lives in her father's former home on Salmon Street.

John McKay — "McCoy" — was a blacksmith. He and his wife Kate Ward lived in the house on Salmon Street, opposite the present Masonic Hall. Their daughter Dora, who became Mrs. E. O. Forbes, was a woman of positive opinions and energetic action, who was a leader in social life here for two generations. After Mr. Forbes died, she married Edward Brushey, who survives her, and now lives in Arizona.

Neil B. McNaughton was a mill owner whose mill stood at the west end of the upper bridge. The mill burned about 1906. Mr. McNaughton came from Canada. He later moved to Madrid, New York, where he died in 1924. The children were Kate; Willis — who married Irene Bannon, by whom he had one son who became a traveling salesman, and toured this area for years; Grace, who married and lives in England; and Ruth, who died young.

Archibald McNair came from Trout River to Fort Covington in 1888. He bought the grist mill on the Little Salmon River from Thomas Hamilton, and operated it until his death, living in the former Judge Paddock house on Gove Street. His family included four sons and three daughters.

Howard sought his fortune in the Northwest. Albert still lives in the Fort. Merton married Margaret, daughter of Joseph Smallman. They are now living in Malone. Of the McNair daughters, one is Mrs. Arthur Barlow, another Mrs. Joseph Dingle, both of Bombay.

Alexander T. Stewart (1833-92); believed to be "The Knight of the Three Bottles" in the SUN's "Doolittle Papers" — built in 1895 the large house on the northeast corner of Chateaugay and Pike Street, where James Mills lives now. He was an undertaker. His wife, who was born Martha M. Spencer, had one of the most beautiful gardens in the town, and her flowers, dispensed with lavish generosity, made happy the heart of many a girl attending the simple social affairs of the 1890s. Mrs. Stewart died in 1905.

The name of James Campbell has already been mentioned as being here during the War of 1812. He was the first of his name in this vicinity, and for a good many years he was one of the leading citizens, holding at one time or another practically every office in the town and county, and some federal offices; but I can not find that he had any family here; he died in Cornwall, Ontario, in 1883, at the age of 99. James Campbell advertised in the FRANKLIN TELEGRAPH in 1821 that he had for sale "Genesee flour, pork, and a thousand gallons of whiskey."

Alexander Campbell, 1828-1920, was born in Cape Breton Island. He married Catherine Mannix in Fort Covington in 1852. They had seven children. George was the very popular butter maker in the Forbes factory until it was taken over by the Dairymen's League. He and his wife Catherine — "Kitty" Rowe — were leaders in every social event in the village. Their son Ransom lived his adult life in Wisconsin, where he died in 1960. The Campbell home was the house on Water Street nearest the railroad; it is now occupied by James Burditt, George's brother, Will, lived on Chateaugay Street, where Fay Layo lives now; his wife was Miss Lowe.

Duncan Gillis had land on the Snye in 1820. He lived to be very old. His son, Chester — "Chet" — was a very active and popular resident here in the 1880s and '90s, and

his name and often his picture was to be found in the news of every local activity. When "Chet" moved to the West in 1903, he was presented with a chest of silver as a token of esteem; the presentation was made by Rev. John Gardiner. Mrs. Winnie Gillis was a dressmaker, whose home was on Salmon Street nearly opposite the Baptist Church. Her daughter Bernice married Will Minkler, but died young, of consumption.

The best-known Gillis was, of course, the eminent physician of that name — Dr. William Gillis — whose career is summarized in another chapter. Both he and his brother Daniel were licensed physicians, but Daniel is said to have refused to practice because "there was too much guesswork about doctoring"!

According to Robert Fraser, the Catholic Church in Fort Covington, built in the 1830s and still in excellent condition, was erected by (i.e., under the supervision of) Hugh MacKinnon, who also built the Academy here.

Mrs. Donald MacKinnon and her two sons lived in the Fort for a few years, early in this century. The boys were powerful fellows, typical red-headed Scotchmen; one was named William. I believe they worked on the train. Mrs. MacKinnon died in 1917, and is buried in the Isle of Skye cemetery, Dundee.

Another Scotchman who deserves mention was Donald McLennan, mail clerk on the Grand Trunk, who on his off days was an itinerant preacher. It was said of him that he was so scrupulous that he was known to have walked a mile to return a postal overcharge of two cents!

Perhaps the most unusual Scotchman who ever lived in the Three Towns was John Johnston, who lived in the McQueen area, and married Ann, sister of John McQueen. Johnston was an excellent housepainter, but of such an independent spirit and so argumentative that he was hard to deal with. His prime conviction was that he owed the world nothing; quite the contrary, since his Scotch ancestors were of noble blood, and, were it not for trickery practiced on them, he would himself be the Marquis of Annandale instead of a mechanic in the backwoods where some people

were so ignorant as to confuse Johnstons with plebeian Johnsons. When he boasted thus to his neighbors, they did not venture to dispute it, but dismissed it with sidelong glances and sardonic smiles. Posterity will probably never know the measure of truth in his assertion, which might, indeed, have made our remote community the refuge of a proud nobleman, as well as of a Lost Dauphin.

John Johnston was probably the only convinced Free Silver advocate in the Three Towns in the hectic campaign of 1896, and no one could have welcomed the issue with more enthusiasm. His stand may have been due to the persuasion of his older sons, who had then been living for some years in Utah, whither the father and younger children followed them after Mrs. Johnston died. The younger children, all bright, attractive and argumentative, like their father, were Edward, Anna and Joe. The family lived last in the house — since pulled down — adjoining the old Baptist Church.

Jim McDonald lived in the brick house on the Merrick-Bombay road, across from John Chapman. His son William won a scholarship at McGill; another son, Jim, married a daughter of "Cassie" Webb. His daughter Emma graduated from Cornell in 1907, and taught school for a time. She later married, and is now Mrs. Joseph Sawyer and lives nearly opposite her girlhood home.

Two other Scotch families were the Starks, of Westville and Bombay, and the Gilchrists, who intermarried with them. Thomas Stark and James Gilchrist came from Goffstown, New Hampshire, soon after 1800, and settled in Bombay, where both are buried; Thomas' daughter Frances married James Gilchrist.

John Stark was born of Scotch parents in Huntingdon County, Quebec, and married there a Scotch girl from Elgin. John was a cobbler by trade, and (after the custom of that day, travelled about the countryside, making shoes. In 1878, he bought from John Cameron his farm on the American side and partly in the town of Westville. This was the well-known Sulphur Springs farm, of which I have written elsewhere. On August 25, 1878, twin sons were born there, who

were named Anson John and David Elder. The family had seven children in all. John built in 1886 the brick house which is still occupied, and the sulphur spring is still in use. When John grew old, he moved to Westville Corners, leaving the farm to his son, Anson. Anson's wife, Mabel Moore, died in 1921, leaving seven small children. Their aunt Eliza Stark reared them. One son, John, graduated from the State College of Agriculture, and all the children followed farming. Carl and his wife, Elsie McNichol, now live at Sulphur Springs.

While it is possible that some names have been unintentionally omitted from the early settlers, it is quite certain that all of them were British, Irish or French in origin. Representatives of other racial stocks have come in only in recent years, and in small numbers.

The only Italian-American family to figure notably in the Three Towns are the descendants of William Cappiello, who came from Italy to Fort Covington in 1883, and spent the rest of his life here, dying in 1938. He conducted a fruit store opposite the Northern Hotel. His wife was Etta Williams. They had two sons, Andy and "Dick," as he is universally known, the town clerk for the past 25 years, and probably the "indispensible man" of the community. He has a magazine and notions store in the building formerly used as the post office; but he is active in every local project, and is ever at the service of townsmen and visitors. He is married to Eva Rouselle, and has two children. Their home was on Center Street — the former Nevins home; but they have recently built a new house on Center Street. His brother "Andy" lives in the historic old Mears home, which he and his wife, Mildred Brockway, are renovating and beautifying, as befits its gracious past; they have five children.

James V. Correnti, now principal of the Mohawk school in Hogansburg, came to Hogansburg as a teacher in the Indian school. He has been prominent in the educational system here since that time, and some of his children are planning to follow in their father's footsteps. His wife was Gladys Voorhees, of Penn Yan, New York.

German people have never come to the Three Towns to live. A possible exception was Elbert O. Forbes, who was reputed to be "Pennsylvania Dutch." Some of the local Smiths mention an ancestor, Schmidt.

For a time in the early 1900s, a "Five and Ten" store was conducted by Frank Hamoud, who was, I believe, a Syrian; he did not stay long.

The only negro ever to make his home here was, I believe, Con Richardson. He lived here for a time in the 1890s, as a laborer. His son Sam was in the local school. There was, I am sure, no resentment or persecution of them; they left for the same reason as our other emigrés did — to better their lot elsewhere.

In fact, integration, as the term is used today, was never a problem in the Three Towns. As a rule, each racial group preferred to associate with and intermarry with people of its own kind; but when the lines were crossed, nothing occurred other than a flurry of mild gossip. Once in a while, a marriage involving different religions would antagonize parents for a while, but I am sure that the rather frequent marriages that I have cited between the Yankees and the Irish, or between Episcopalians and Methodists, or, in this century, between French and either, have proved to be as harmonious as marriages in general, and have placed no serious strain on the happiness of the community.



General Man's House; the oldest in Westville, built before 1810

10

THE LINE AND OUR CANADIAN NEIGHBORS

The Three Towns are affected by a political situation that is unknown to most rural areas in the United States — one which has at times had considerable influence on the lives of our people, and which might — as even a casual study of the terrifying “Iron Curtain” in contemporary Europe will convince us — become a catastrophe: the boundary between the U. S. and Canada.

The boundary is officially said to be the 45th parallel of north latitude, which geographers tell us is just half-way to the North Pole — though it often seems much nearer! Actually, it has been demonstrated that as a result of computing and surveying errors the Line of today is too far south, in our area, and were it changed to the true 45th parallel, the State of New York would take in both hamlets of Dundee Lines and Kensington, as well as not a few fertile farms that are listed as in Huntingdon County, Quebec. Obviously, I must hasten to add that there is not the slightest notion of reclaiming those fine properties, which, if they happened to be in East Germany or India, would doubtless have been “liberated” ere now by the “peace-loving” rulers in Moscow or New Delhi. The difference is that our two governments practice peace, instead of just shouting about it, and that the normal relations of Canadians and New Yorkers are not only friendly, but cordial.

The history of the Line is a dramatic one. It began with proclamations of Henry IV of France and James I of England, in 1603 and 1606, respectively, setting forth their claims to lands in North America. There was a conflict from the very start, for the French king granted Sieur de Monts authority to settle, “du quarantième jusqu’au le quarante-sixième degré” (from the 40th to the 46th parallel), whereas King James granted the Plymouth and London companies the land between the 34th and the 45th parallels, with the reservation: “not now actually possessed by any Christian

prince or people." Montreal and Quebec were well-established towns; but there was to be no white settlement in Northern New York for the next 150 years.

When Quebec passed into the hands of Great Britain, in 1763, it was agreed in London that a line should be surveyed between the old colony of New York and the newly-acquired colony of Quebec. The work, which must have been arduous in the dense woods, was entrusted to Thomas Valentine and John Collins, deputy surveyors of the two provinces. Collins seems to have done the actual work. In October, 1774, he filed with the Secretary of the Province, in Albany, a report describing his version of the boundary. Authorities say that he used a magnetic compass and recall that, a dozen years earlier, Sir Guy Carleton, first British governor of Quebec, had the line estimated "from astronomical calculations." The two provincial governors in 1774 accepted Collins' report, and the line as he drew it, was proclaimed to be, and has ever since been accepted as the northern boundary of New York. But, after the ground was cleared, and surveying became more accurate, it was found that Collins' line was a wavy one, "far from being a straight line." An official report, based on the Graham map drawn in 1842, says that, at Rouses Point, the Line is three-fourths of a mile north of the 45th parallel, and trends southerly from there to a point just west of the village of Fort Covington, where it coincides with the parallel. At St. Regis, the Line is 125 feet north of the parallel. Meantime, the Collins Line had been embodied in the Provisional Treaty of 1782, the Treaty of American Independence, 1783, and the Treaty of London, 1794. But the Treaty of Ghent, 1814 — concluding our Second War with England — reopened the matter. It declared that the boundary which extends along the 45th parallel had not yet been surveyed; and provides for a board of commissioners to have it surveyed; and that, if they could not agree, the matter should be submitted to a "friendly power." This was done in 1829, the King of the Netherlands being the "friendly power." His recommendations, however, bore no fruit, due to the strenuous opposition by the State of Maine, whose eastern boundary was threatened.

Eventually, the whole argument was settled by the Webster-Ashburton Treaty of 1842. This provides that the Line should run along "the old line of boundary surveyed and marked by Valentine and Collins . . . as hitherto known and understood . . . to the Iroquois or St. Lawrence river."

Three years later, the Line was retraced, and marked with iron posts. In 1902, the Line was again checked by surveyors of both countries; and their report was accepted by treaty in 1908. A final detailed survey under the International Boundary Commission was completed in 1917, and a large map was prepared, showing the topography, on a large scale, for a half mile on both sides of the border. Another 60 years have elapsed since the last re-marking took place, but no announcement has been made as to whether the procedure is to be renewed.

The boundary monuments erected in 1845 were of cedar, enclosed in cases of cast iron. They were about four feet high, square at the base, and gradually tapering upwards. Each contained an inscription reading: "Albert Smith, U. S. Commissioner. Treaty of Washington. Lt. Col. T. B. B. Estcourt, H. B. M. Commissioner. Boundary. Aug. 9, 1842." The posts stood at intervals of one mile, in the woods, and on the side of each road or navigable stream. They bore consecutive numbers, the post at the old Mary O'Reilly store being numbered 748, the one now in Walter Smallman's yard is submerged.

The Line is of course of great legal importance, and has much sentimental significance. But it must be said that to the pioneers, and to their successors for two or three generations, it interfered little with their daily lives. As we have seen, Americans and Canadians visited back and forth continuously, intermarried, sponsored each other's children, shared each other's work and sports, attended each other's family burials, and even lie side by side in cemeteries on both sides of the Line. Their churches and schools availed themselves of good pastors and teachers, no matter where found. Fort Covington Academy drew many pupils from Dundee — such as Farlingers, Taillons, Bannons, Moores, McCaffreys, O'Reillys, Gardiners, Frasers and others.

McGill University educated many Americans. Montreal was the great goal of our people desiring a planned-for holiday.

As for the customs laws, they were often more honored in the breach than in the observance. Smuggling was, we may say, universal in the early days, when the value of a five cent saving was thought enough to justify a wagon ride of several miles to save the difference. Seaver's and Fraser's histories contain many anecdotes testifying to this — of which my space permits me to quote only a couple. William D. Fraser recalls that "Grandmother would go to the American side at Fort Covington and get a whole web of cloth and make the family's clothes at home. Next door, Mrs. Brunson used to do the same. It was common in those days . . ." On one occasion they were spotted by a revenue officer, who followed them home. He took Mrs. Fraser's web before she reached her door. But Mrs. Brunson "was more canny . . . she threw her web out of the window into the berry bushes, and saved it." Presumably, the officer made little search, nor is there any hint of a prosecution.

Again: "Cattle were smuggled from New York over devious routes, from Westville, using Mary Reilly's road and other secluded byways, crossing the corner of Dundee and over the lake to Glengarry." Canadians bought Genessee flour, pork, and corn whiskey; also, nails made in Jesse Woodbury's shop in Fort Covington. Americans bought Scotch woolens, Irish linen and tea. Only in extreme cases, to forestall certain seizure — though informers were branded for life with social contempt — or by a few "Sunday school teachers," were duties voluntarily paid. When, in the early Nineties, Sears and Shield's stores at Bombay Corners staged a price war, customers drove from as far away as Cazaville to buy sugar at 5 cents a pound, and kerosene at 5 cents a gallon.

This peaceful state of affairs received its death-blow on the enactment of the U. S. National Prohibition Act in 1920, followed by a hectic decade of trying to enforce it, which will be discussed in a later chapter. This ended the easy camaraderie and the modest saving of across-the-border traffic, and turned it into "Big Business," with accompany-

ing crime and demoralization. Life along the Line has not been the same, since. People realize that, and the older ones at least deplore it; but it is unlikely that much will be done about it. When, on July 1, 1940, the Canadian Government announced that henceforth visas would be required by Canadians wishing to visit friends in the States, angry protests were heard. Strict restrictions were imposed on draft-eligible young men leaving Canada, and of Canadian money being taken out. This was, of course, part of the Dominion's share in World War II, which preceded ours by two years. The SUN commented, in its issue of Dec. 25, 1940: "Since July last, things have not been the same . . . the flow of Canadian visitors has stopped."

The April 3, 1941 SUN contained an article headed "Concerted drive is started to bring back Border Life to . . . Good Old Days." After summing up briefly the happier conditions that we have been describing, the article goes on to say: "Then came the law . . . when step by step new regulations were laid down interfering with the activities and contacts of border people. . . . These rules have hurt Fort Covington terribly, and equally too the people of Dundee. . . . Come now inklings of an effort on the part of the Merchants Association of Newport, Vermont, to have the border bans of both governments, as they affect border life, lifted. In a letter to Prime Minister King, the Newport people said: "Through long years we have been in the habit of speaking of this boundary line as: the imaginary line'. . . . The imaginary line has become real. We respectfully appeal to you to bring about . . . more normal conditions."

Of course, during the past century and a half, both governments have maintained custom-houses and immigration offices here. Canadian offices are at Dundee and St. Regis; U. S. offices at Fort Covington and at Hogansburg. The following is an incomplete list of officers who have been on duty: At Dundee — John Duncan McMillan, Adrian O'Reilly. At Fort Covington — John F. Lacombe, Donald H. Matteson, Chas. A. McCain, Earl S. Wilson, Walter J. Shinn, Jas. A. Ryan, Marvin E. Malone, Roger H. Lucas, Geo. B. Munn, Jas. C. Hughes, Raymond C. Bessette,

Alfred J. Laraby, Russell R. Tolosky in Customs collection, and Frank Thompson, John Casey, William Boyle, Ian Ash and Anthony Caruso in Immigration Inspection. At Hogansburg — John Bero, Wm. Nautel, Jas. Walsh, Ernest Flynn.

There have been only two occasions (in these two centuries) when many of the people of the Three Towns came into serious disagreement with their neighbors to the North, or at least with the Canadian Government; and on each occasion the difference, though generating much excited talk, wore itself out with little actual violence.

The first occasion was in 1837-38, when the French people of Quebec, refused permission to elect their own Legislative Council, started a forcible uprising usually called, from its chief instigator, the Papineau Rebellion. Undoubtedly, the rebels had the sympathy of most of the people on our side of the Line. Our federal government, headed by the cool and cautious President Van Buren, was determined to go to extremes to enforce our neutral stand. The laws forbade American citizens from going to a foreign country to fight on either side, nor was it legal to send arms or supplies there. It happened, however, that the chief federal official stationed here at the time — Samuel H. Payne, deputy collector of customs at Fort Covington — was a convinced and outspoken advocate of Papineau and his cause. Also, Francis D. Flanders, editor of the newly-founded FRANKLIN GAZETTE, wrote fiery articles supporting the rebels. To control any possible trouble, the U. S. Government called out two militia companies for service on the border. They were quartered under the command of Capt. Montgomery, in the Northern Hotel, and constructed in the cellar cells of oak planks designed to hold any prisoners who might break the laws. Old residents testified to having seen these cells, but no one has offered any evidence that they had any inmates. A group of about 50 leading residents of the village raised a fund to help Papineau, but his movement collapsed without making much headway, Papineau himself scuttling off to France. Collector Payne was removed from office because of his zeal, and when he ran for Assemblyman to seek vindication, he was defeated. The British

House of Commons passed resolutions thanking President Van Buren for his action.

The second time when trouble with our Canadian neighbors seriously threatened was during the period following the Civil War, when the Fenian movement, aimed at tearing Canada away from Great Britain, and using her as a base of operations for freeing Ireland, caused great excitement along the Border. The events of 1866-70 connected with the Fenians are fully and fairly recounted in Seaver's chapter XXIX, and, as they relate almost entirely to happenings in Malone and Trout River, I shall not narrate them here. To recapitulate briefly, several thousand men, mostly veterans of the Civil War, came to Northern New York in May and June of 1866 — as well as to Western New York and to Vermont — announcing their intention to invade Canada. They camped on the Malone Fair Grounds and obtained supplies from the local people, partly by purchase, but largely by donation. There was little violence, and Seaver — who remembered the events as a boy — states that, though they were under little discipline by their officers, the Fenians acted with remarkable restraint for so large a body of active young men. But the arms and ammunition which they had counted on receiving at Malone and other points had been detected and seized by the U. S. Government, which also sent a thousand regular army troops to Malone. This discouraged the Fenians, who gradually surrendered or disappeared; most of them were transported to their homes in all parts of the country, at government expense.

Four years later — in May, 1870 — Fenians came again, but not in such large numbers. The partial settlement of American claims against Great Britain for her un-neutral, pro-Southern policy during our Civil War and the release of some prisoners in Ireland had somewhat mollified the Irish; also, the Fenians were divided.

This time, the Fenians pitched camp in Trout River, and, a few days later, they crossed the Line into Huntingdon County. This time, they had sent their arms and ammunition ahead to local sympathizers, who secreted it until it was needed. Fort Covington and Hogansburg were among the

assembling points for arms; and for years afterward, many a farmer in the Three Towns had an "ould Fenian gun" — the long-barreled Springfield rifle — obtained free or at a bargain when the Fenians departed. The only fighting in the 1870 affair was a couple of skirmishes near Trout River, in which, apparently, no one was killed.

During the whole period, 1866-70, there was much uneasiness in Canada, and, occasionally, some signs of panic. Some families secreted their valuables in the woods. Others came to stay with American relatives or friends until the danger was past — thus reversing the conduct of our "Ske-daddlers" of the Civil War. The people of the Three Towns — especially the large Irish element — were generally sympathetic to the aim of the Fenians — to free Ireland; but they were probably puzzled as to what that had to do with Canada. One of the Fenian commanders — Gen. William M. Reilly — had been a resident of Fort Covington, where he had clerked in Hogle's store. Some of the Fenians settled down in the vicinity — among them Thomas Hinds and John McSorley, who became respected businessmen in Malone.

The relations of our people with the Canadians and their government have been consistently friendly during the present century, though not as informal and intimate as they used to be. The chief development that may have further effect is the building of the St. Lawrence Seaway, which we shall consider in a later chapter.



Matthews Store

11 THE LIFE OF THE PIONEERS

The pioneer period of the Three Towns may be said to include years between 1820 and 1860. During that time, the early settlers whom we have named, with contemporaries whose names are now forgotten, and their successors whom we shall meet, changed the area from wilderness to a settled and organized community. They cut down most of the forest, built houses, barns, and passable if rough roads and bridges, raised crops and domestic animals, organized agencies of civil society, including churches and schools, and otherwise made the framework of today's Three Towns.

We who live in "another world" which also is likely to become obsolete in its turn, often find it interesting to read of the stern life that our ancestors led, over a century ago, in the woods of northern New York. It could be mentioned, without much exaggeration, that their material conditions were less like ours than they were like those of the ancient Romans, as described, e.g., in Showerman's "Rome and the Romans." Their daily routine is much pleasanter to read about than we would find it to live through. But let us also remember that, were it not for the tough accomplishments that I am about to describe, we would not have what we do have today. And, finally, let us consider that the time for such an account is getting late. As Jared Van Wageningen puts it, in the preface to his absorbing book on the pioneers of the Hudson Valley: "Seventy-five years ago, the available data were abundant and exact; seventy-five years from now, even the voice of oral tradition will be dumb."

First of all, our ancestors got here by endless walking through almost trackless woods, hauling their few belongings in a rough wagon or cart, pulled, in many cases, by a "yoke" (pair) of oxen. When possible, they rode horseback. They must be prepared to chop down trees that blocked their path; to ford rivers; to climb sizeable hills. Needless to say, they did not struggle through the central Adiron-

dacks, but skirted Lake Champlain, if they came from New England or from Washington County. Those who came from Canada used the rivers (St. Lawrence, Salmon and Chateaugay) whenever they could. Indian trails were too few to be helpful here.

When they arrived in a locality where they found land that they could afford to buy on credit, they must seek out the land agent—such as William Hogan—and “sign papers.” Many lived in the house of some earlier settler while building their own home; and a bright spot in their story is that such hospitality was so freely given.

For a description of what followed thereafter, I am chiefly indebted to a little book published in 1882 at Fall River, Mass., and titled “Life on the Border Sixty Years Ago.” A copy of this book was given me by Mrs. Ezra Paddock, who was a daughter of Seymour Elliot, a prominent resident of Bombay. The author of the book was William Reed, who states that he arrived in Bombay June 20, 1823, being brought there as a young boy by his foster-parents from Vermont. He grew up on a backwoods farm in the eastern part of the town, about two miles south of Bombay Corners, where he went to school. He lived there until 1837, when he was 19; in later years he visited the place once or twice, and wrote occasional letters of reminiscence. His book shows him to have been a keen observer; and personal anecdotes he relates impel one to reliance on his recollection as essentially accurate.

A piece of land being obtained, the first task was to build a log cabin. For this, there were ample resources at hand, for the entire area was covered by a dense forest, composed largely of hardwood trees — oak, white ash, black ash, hemlock, walnut, elm, sugar and hard maple, beech, birch, basswood and others, most of them suited to some special use. Of more immediate value than any of the aforementioned trees were the giant pines which, as we have seen, caught the eye of the Mans and other pioneer lumbermen, and caused them to settle in Westville. The best of these trees were often floated on rafts down the St. Lawrence to Montreal or Quebec, where they were in great demand to be

used as mainmasts by the British Navy. (It is recorded that one such timber was sold in Quebec City for the equivalent of \$3,000 — in those days of dear money.) So huge were these pines that Van Wagenen records that a pioneer in Seneca County bought a slab from one which served for years as the dining table for a large family. Reginald Connell has in his house a plank 33 feet long, which he obtained in the demolition of the old Academy.

There were also areas covered by cedar, which still persists in the lighter soil, and furnishes a modest income to a few distillers of "cedar oil." Other trees of no especial value included tamarack, poplar, wild cherry and soft maple.

Reed describes his father's log cabin building thus:

"The cabin was built of medium-sized logs. (The cabin) was some 24 feet long and 18 feet in width; there was only one room. The floor consisted of loose puncheons — i.e., thick short planks, made by splitting straight-grained basswood logs and hewing them a little so they would lie in position on the floor sleepers. There was no hearth or fireplace, only a place for each, and a backing of rude stonework against the logs at one end. At the foot of this, on the ground, the fire was built, and the smoke gradually found its way up along this chimney back and out of a hole in the ridge of the roof. There was no door, only a place cut through the logs at one side, where our predecessors hung up a blanket by night and in cold weather. There was no window, only a place cut through the log wall . . . and the roof was covered with rough boards, and the joints battened with wide heavy slabs nailed down firm, and this roof was always tight in the most driving storms. There was no piazza or shed or enclosed dooryard, no oven, no well, no cistern, no cellar, no out-buildings of any kind. . . . The place and surroundings were generally forbidding . . . much more so for New England people accustomed to framed houses, good barns, and home conveniences in abundance, even if not elegant. But this cabin and surroundings were as good as any other settler enjoyed, and, such as they were, it was better than no shelter at all."

Our ancestors, however, were not inclined to "put up with" these deprivations any longer than absolutely necessary. Reed tells in later pages how his people improved that cabin a few years later. "First, there was a door constructed and hung on wooden hinges . . . then, three window sash and glass to be set, and a double window was fixed in the west side of the cabin. Another sash was fixed on the front side, and these with the door, made our cabin light and airy. Next, a common table with crossed legs was constructed for everyday use . . . then a fireplace was built by laying down a good solid hearth of flat stones . . . and on this a chimney was constructed . . . to the ridge and a couple of feet above, of straight cedar sticks . . . plastered within and without with clay, so as to render it completely fire proof, and this chimney stood the wear some twenty years. . . . Next, a new floor was laid of white ash planks sawed in a mill, but unplanned."

"Aunt Ann . . . in four years by her weekly exercises on washing day, with a split broom, rendered this floor as smooth and white as could be wished . . . The next thing was to render the cabin impervious to the cold. . . . Straight cedar plugs or wedges . . . were driven in between the logs on the inside of the house. . . . To finish the improvement, moss was gathered from the large old trees in the forest, and . . . driven into the cracks on the outside, till they were completely chocked, and clay mortar plastered over that, rendering the walls as secure as though built of brick."

Houses similar to the one just described were built all over the Three Towns, and they made safe, if not commodious homes for large families for one or two generations, after which they were converted into sheds or barns which gave further service for a long time.

Next in importance to the building of the cabin was the clearing of the ground, so that crops could be sown and animals pastured. "For this," says Van Wagenen, "the pioneer needed, besides his high courage and skill, three — and only three — tools; to wit, his keen ax, his firebrand and his trusty ox team." Reed says: "A man's capabilities for work were usually gauged by his expertness in handling

it (the axe)." A special kind of axe — called the broadaxe — was used for hewing timber. Other tools were the adz, the saw, the punch (for caulking) and the lever (for logging). The crosscut saw was not much used by the first generation. Timbers from old houses usually show marks of the axe or the adz, rather than the saw; the one indispensable tool was the axe. Each settler had his own axe, usually weighing about five pounds, carefully selected and zealously cared for. It was kept sharp on a grindstone, turned by hand as the stone was kept wet — a task that developed muscle in many a growing child. With the help of the axe and hard work, the buildings were built, fences split and laid, logs prepared for corduroy roads, fuel made ready for fireplaces — one of these might consume 50 cord in one year (a "cord" being an oblong pile eight feet by four by four); shingles hewn and land cleared, sometimes as much as five acres in a season. "To make a beginning, he went to some chosen spot, chopped down a tree, turned where he stood, and chopped down another and then another." As they fell he was careful to avoid lodging one tree in the branches of another still uncut. He continued until quite a space of ground was covered with tangled trunks and uplifted branches. These were allowed to lie until a chance presented itself to burn them. The ideal time to fell trees was in early summer when they were in leaf. Then, the leaves did not fall off, but dried on the tree, and helped the settler to "get a good burn" in the fall, when the firebrand came into use. The flames would sweep through the felled timber, consuming the underbrush and the smaller branches and leaving the larger logs blackened, but mostly intact; these were then cut into length that might be "snaked" (dragged) by the oxen to a heap which would be burned in one huge fire. The stumps remained in the ground for years, depending upon what variety of wood they were; a big white pine stump might still be quite solid after 25 years. Years later, some of them were made into stump fences, but it is hard to find one of these now. In fact, rail fences, once so common, are practically all gone. And none of the present generation has seen the billowing smoke of the clearing fires that once filled

the autumn air — the farewell signal of our primeval forest.

Clearing the land was a most strenuous task, and one that could not have been accomplished, had it not been for cooperation among the settlers. Some of the pioneers had no work animals to begin with; and, in order to secure the use of a team to haul the logs, a man would give two days to a neighbor in return for one day's work by the neighbor's team. It would need three or four seasons to raise a yoke of oxen from calves. Likewise, when a barn was ready to be roofed, plenty of help must be used; so a "bee" was held, when all the neighbors would come with their tools — the men to build the barn, the women to prepare the bountiful meal that followed, the children to enjoy a rare good time, free of parental restraint.

I have already discussed the crops that were grown and the uses to which they were put. There have been significant changes in recent years in the agriculture of the Three Towns, as we shall see later on. In early days, hay and grain were mowed by hand with scythes and sickles; this was a slow and laborious job, and dependent upon good weather. Mowing and harvesting machines, horserakes and tedders did not reach the north country until considerably later; and, if they had, they would have been of little use in the stump-studded fields. According to Van Wagenen, most of the grain raised in New York State up to the Civil War was reaped by cradles, which were wide frames with an arm on one side, but I have not much evidence of their use in the Three Towns. Some of the grain, and especially beans, were freed from their stem by flails. Flax had to be worked through a hackle — a small board studded with rows of very sharp spikes, which straightened out the fibres as they were drawn through, making long threads that could be spun. When a boy, I found such a hackle in my father's barn, and, on my asking him what it was, he gravely informed me that it was a device used in schools to make bad boys sit on!

The raising and use of domestic animals was of equal, if not greater importance to the settlers than were their crops. Hogs were especially valuable. Pork was the common meat,

and most families cured their own hams, bacon and sausages; the fuel for doing so in the family smoke-house usually being corn cobs, saved for the occasion. Beef and mutton were luxuries. Fish were plentiful, as were deer and other game, but the settlers begrudged the time as well as the cost of the ammunition necessary to shoot the game. Poultry was used to vary the diet, and eggs were always in use. It was quickly discovered that the soil was especially adapted to raising excellent potatoes, and they speedily became the standard vegetable, which, along with meat, furnished the backbone of every dinner. Many farms had ice-houses — sizeable sheds built to hold quantities of ice blocks for refrigeration in the summer. The ice was usually cut near Dundee, where it often acquired a thickness of two feet or more, during a typical northern winter. In the late winter it was cut by crosscut saws, pulled out by hooks, loaded on sleds to the ice-houses. These had double walls through which sawdust was packed; there was no trouble in getting sawdust free. Often, the supply of ice thus packed would last through the summer.

One distinguishing food delicacy characteristic of our section was maple syrup and its derivative, maple sugar, made from the sap of the sugar maple, a distinct variety of that handsome tree which abounded here. The knowledge of the process of making sugar was brought in from New England, and for generations, it was a commonplace in the Three Towns, whose older inhabitants mourn its recent decline. Most families had a few maples which they “tapped,” and boiled down the sap into sugar or — part way through the boiling — into wax which was poured over clean snow, making a delicious candy. Some farmers had “sugar bushes” of several hundred trees and sold the product commercially, but that their profits were not large may be judged from the fact that maple sugar was sometimes exchanged for white sugar, pound for pound. Certain families, such as those of Norman Bean and William Howard, are remembered as making excellent sugar. An amusing story is told of how a newcomer — an Englishman named Fenton, working on the Mears’ place — was sent to tap the maples and

gather the sap. When the sap was boiled, the flavor was disappointing; then the newcomer admitted that he didn't know maples and had tapped every big tree.

The land was fertilized with the manure of animals and poultry, which was saved in great piles until spring, when its spreading on the fields required several days strenuous work by men and a team. Unfortunately, most farms had to store the manure outdoors, where the winter rains and snow leached out much of its chemical strength.

Commercial fertilizers did not appear until about the turn of the century, and their use was not commonly resorted to until the decline in size of many dairy herds began to diminish notably the supply of animal fertilizer. One resident remembers John Buchanan, who had a feed store at the Fort, advertising fertilizer in 1904.

Meantime, while all those tasks were being performed by the men, the women were equally busy inside the house. Their prime duty was to keep the family fed and clothed. For both heating and cooking, the fireplace was depended upon, for many years. Reed describes its construction and operation in detail, and with nostalgic enthusiasm. To quote a few sentences: "The capacious fireplace would hold an eighth of a cord of wood without crowding it. In the rear would be placed a large green log . . . sometimes two feet in diameter. On top of this, a smaller log, and a still smaller one above that made the backlog . . . the green wood burning slowly would send out a tremendous heat, so that in a half hour you could sit comfortably in the rear of the cabin, and the blazing fire so illuminated the interior that no other light was necessary. Reading, sewing, spinning, knitting or talking could all go on merrily around the blaze." The cooking utensils — kettles, pots, spiders, fryers — were all of cast iron, and were elevated or lowered to the blaze from a series of iron hooks of various lengths built into the fireplace." Reed describes a cast-iron baker — sometimes called a Dutch oven — in which bread was baked under a cover of live coals; but it disappeared from the market in the early 1840s. The square box stove, or "Franklin stove" succeeded it, and was universally used in the schoolhouses. Kerosene was

still unheard of. Should the fire go out — a serious misfortune — the only recourses were to patiently strike a spark into the dry tinder from flint and steel, or to “borrow fire” from a neighbor. Tallow candles were regularly used, made by housewives by pouring molten tallow — made from farm fats boiled with lye from wood ashes — into frames into which wicks had previously been inserted; it would seem that, of the traditional trinity — the butcher, the baker and the candlestick maker — the last-named was not the least.

Cooking was a never-ending task, to satisfy the generous appetites of large families inured to hard work and outdoor living in a rugged climate. With the utensils and conditions just described, the pioneer wives had little time — even if they had the inclination — to try many innovations, and their husbands would doubtless have shared the astonishment of the good farmer in Eugene Wood’s “Back Home” when his neighbor boasted that “My Mary Ann med me a pie!” — “A wha-a-t?” As long as there was plenty of flour and good corn meal to make the famous “Johnnycake,” with potatoes, eggs, pork, butter and possibly a vegetable or two — beans, pumpkins, etc. — they could always get a substantial meal from their own property. Flour could be easily had by carrying grain — often on horseback — to one of the mills with which, as we shall see, the neighborhood was amply provided from the beginning. Among the few “store goods” sought for were salt, tea, white sugar, soda, and, possibly, some spice, such as cinnamon. Corn on the cob was a delicacy of early summer — one that all could afford; and fruit, especially apples, was carefully preserved.

Next to cooking in urgency and time consumption was washing. Monday was the traditional washday, and a very bad time for visitors or the interference of “men folks.” The chief aid to the washwoman was soft soap, made on the farm out of meat-scraps saved from the family table. Soft soap was disagreeable to handle and to smell; in fact, it had but one virtue — it *could* clean clothes. Immersed in great kettles of boiling water whose steam filled the entire cabin, the grimest woolen shirts or trousers, to say nothing of all cotton and linen garments and accessories, would come out

spotless; and, after due exposure to wind and sun on outdoor clothes-lines, the "wash" would be once more immaculate and fragrant. Often, in summer, the washing might be done in the enormous cast iron kettle which practically every farm possessed, and which also served for many another purpose — including the scalding of newly-butchered hogs. In the scrap campaign of 1942 for World War II salvage, one such kettle, weighing upwards of 1500 pounds, was donated by William C. Lahey, whose father, Jay, had used it during his whole farm life. Incidentally, the news article comments that the "drive reveals much antiquated and obsolete farm machinery . . . not easily identified today."

In the absence of bathtubs, the routine of taking baths by the pioneers themselves must have varied a good deal with the season, the number in the family, and the personal taste of the inmates, especially the parents; but we have no reason to believe that our predecessors were either more or less fastidious than their fellow-Americans of other rural sections. And, at any rate, there was no tax on water to discourage its use.

Sanitary facilities were primitive. These consisted of privies, located at some distance from the house, preferably on the leeward side! The inconvenience of reaching them in sub-zero or stormy temperature was accepted as a "fact of life." Chic Sales stories, popular at a later date, reflect the good humor that country people adopted toward their difficulties. As time went on, many privies were connected by sheltering passages; some were even papered within, and — it is rumored — served as reading-rooms!

Beds and bedding was usually homemade. The beds were substantial square frames, having, perhaps, bedposts made slightly decorative by being "turned" at a local "joiner's." "Ticks" of heavy cotton served as mattresses. They were filled with fine straw, corn-husks, or, in later years, with goosefeathers, which made admirable resting, and were highly prized. Whatever the contents of the tick, their changing and the washing of the tick and accompanying pillows was a serious job for the housewife. The ticks were usually supported by cords of rope stretched back and forth across

the bedstead; these needed re-stringing from time to time — a task for a strong man.

The making of clothing and keeping it in repair absorbed much of the women's time. For the most part, clothing was hand-made. Wool furnished the chief material, and nearly every farm had a flock of sheep. Flax was grown to a certain extent, to provide the linen from which tablecloths and sheets were made, some of which, with beautiful designs, became family heirlooms. The combination of "linsey-woolsey" made a warm and practically indestructible fabric.

Every house had a spinning-wheel, and the ancient art of spinning was taught to girls as a matter of course. There were two kinds of wheels, — one for wool, and one for flax — and the technique of operating them was quite different. Flax-growing reached its peak in New York in the 1840's — the state census of 1846 reported more than 46,000 acres — but it died out rapidly after the Civil War.

Inseparable from spinning was the process of weaving, and many families used looms. The census of 1834 showed over 40,000 yards of woolen cloth made in that year in families in Franklin County, of which a large proportion must have come from the Three Towns. Most of the woolen found its way into the dresses and jackets made by the women. Cotton, of course, had to be bought at stores, and, while necessary, was not so highly esteemed. When people paid store prices, they were very insistent on getting full value and good quality and were not too much affected by changes in fashion — the chief objective being durability. One of my father's most vivid memories was of a severe "licking" he received for cutting several inches off the bottom of his first store overcoat because it reached nearly to the ground, being intended to last several seasons.

Use was made of the furs from some of the wild animals that still abounded here; raccoon caps, foxskin gloves, bear-skin coats were not uncommon, though they required the work of a tanner or tailor. Shoes for the entire family were usually made by a travelling cobbler, who was a welcome guest for a week or so, until he had the whole family shod for

the ensuing year; high boots often required a "boot-jack" to remove, in wet weather. Most children went barefoot in the summer and fall months.

Fabrics or "made-over" garments were often dyed in the home, using in part vegetable juices from sumac, butter-nut and madder plants from the woods. Dyeing day was a joyous one for the children because mother usually threw in a few empty spools or other simple toys to brighten them up.

The tasks I have described do not by any means exhaust all the activities of the settler's women. Many become expert midwives and nurses, for the great majority of children were then delivered in the homes and nursed at the mother's breast. They had to be prepared for unforeseen but inevitable accidents to their husbands or children or "hired help." They often had to care for ailing pigs or calves or chickens born out of time; a single one was too valuable to lose. The women learned by experience that the woods and fields contained many humble products that were good either for food — such as mushrooms, chokecherries or watercress — or for healing — such as mullein, tansy or elecampane. They went after them, and used them. In short, those were the days of which the poet wrote: "Man works from sun to sun/But woman's work is never done."

The life of the pioneer was often disturbed by accidents — perhaps not as many as those of today, but of a different kind, and due to the hazards of their way of life. The most common were serious cuts or amputations caused by the every-handly axe or scythe. It is safe to say that a large proportion of the men bore on their bodies scars of wounds thus received and many had lost a limb. Before bridges were built, drownings were not uncommon. There were a good many fires, some involving loss of lives.

There was constant danger from wild animals; and occasionally a fractious bull would injure or kill someone — as happened to Michael Reardon's father, years later. Firearms were more commonly used than today, and occasionally, in the wooded country, an unseen hunter would claim a victim. These, and the constant mishaps of children, added

an ever present element of danger to the daily existence.

In concluding this summary of the laborious and often dismal routine of our ancestors, we must, in all fairness, say that they had plenty of joy, too. Whether they were Vermonters, Canadians, British or Irish, they were mainly young, ambitious, full of animal spirits, jovial and sociable. They thought little of driving several miles over rough roads, after a hard day's work, with the children packed under the robes, to spend a night in dancing, eating and drinking, and story-telling; and, if the gatherings were occasionally enlivened by a brawl, the memory of it would only add zest to the next meeting. The Vermonters had their "sociables," the French their "Jour de l'An" (New Year) celebrations, the Irish their "ceilidhes" (kay-lees) at which the songs and legends of the "Ould Country" were revived; and all together made the bees and barn-raisings merry occasions. Music for the dancing was supplied by the "fiddle," so well adapted to a joyful, noisy gathering.

They were great visitors, too. The folks of the Irish Ridge in Bombay exchanged visits with their kinsmen of the Irish Ridge in Dundee, and the Scots of Glengarry travelled by water and land to see their kinsmen across the Line. The visits often had to be limited in time by the necessity of "getting home to milk," but that did not discourage them.

After the Franklin County Fair was started, in 1852, it became an annual holiday to attend, to marvel at its innovations, and to meet friends, old and new; everyone looked forward to going — on foot, if necessary — "next year."

So lived our ancestors, the pioneers. As I have said, their work was necessary to our existence, and on the whole, they wrought wisely and well. If we are inclined to pity their hardships, wonder at their mistakes, and laugh at their crudities, let us not forget their many virtues and sterling accomplishments. It is not yet certain that Twentieth Century America's impressive scientific achievement is producing a world of more real happiness than the plain, hard-working men and women who inhabited these Three Towns, and other towns like them, 100 years ago enjoyed.

12

EARLY DAY INDUSTRIES

The end of the War of 1812 left French Mills flat on its back. During the next few years, many of the first settlers moved to Michigan or to "parts unknown." Their places were taken by newcomers from New England or from Washington County, or, after about 1830, by Irish immigrants. It naturally took the newcomers a generation or so to get established. Hence, until the Civil War period, the old Yankee names dominated social and business transactions.

Fort Covington slowly got on its feet. It became, and long remained, a distinctively mill town, as did Westville and Bombay to a somewhat lesser extent. It did not take much capital, nor, indeed, too much labor to build a primitive dam, and, if a sudden "freshet" washed that away, the builder would move a short distance, and start over again. In the early 1820s, the village, which now had dropped its earlier name of French Mills, had about 35 houses and one store, kept by John Aiken. There was a carding mill, a tannery, a grist mill, a cabinet shop, and a "Trip-hammer works" which made scythes and nails. This last was on Mill Street, where Courtney's shop later stood, and was run by Jesse Woodbury, who came from Washington County.

The year 1825 was bad. There were many failures in business; in fact the only early Fort Covington firms that did not fail at one time or another were John Aiken, Benjamin Raymond and Warren Manning. The FRANKLIN TELEGRAPH contained ads by William Burns, James Campbell, P. B. Fiske, William Herrick and John and R. Johnson, successor to R. Hawley & Co.; it also carried an ad by the first milliner, "from the south," located in Johnson's store. Other ads were by A. McHutcheon & Co., James Parker, saddler, J. Congdon & Co., and R. A. Campbell's carding mill.

From about 1830 until the building of the Ogdensburg and Lake Champlain Railroad, which was completed into

Malone in 1850, Fort Covington was the busiest town in the county, and at times had the largest population. Its chief advantage was its situation convenient to navigation, via the Salmon and St. Lawrence, giving access to the markets of Montreal and Quebec. Seaver remarks that its stores were the best stocked in the county. But the mills continued to be the hub of activities.

The area along the west side of the Big Salmon, from the the river bend down to the dam, was the scene of great industrial activities in the old days. Hamlet and Thomas Mears had a gristmill and Aretus and Myron Hitchcock an adjoining distillery, as early as the '30s. Tillness Briggs ran the distillery for a while thereafter; and it was once used as a starch mill. But all these buildings were eventually torn down, and the lumber used, in the next generation, in the erection of a four-story sash and door factory, owned and operated by Gilbert and Duncan Wright. Next, to the south, stood Calvin Henry's blacksmith shop (John French and his son operated there in the '90s); next was the Spencer and Premo furniture factory; nearby, a creamery, which Solon Storm operated as late as 1917; and then, Daniel Noble's tannery and shoe shop. Across the river, where the original Robertson mill had stood, was a sawmill, built by William Hawkins before 1810, which passed through numerous hands — at least one of whom was a speculator from Essex County. The owners of longest record were the Mears family. The last active owner was the Fort Covington Milling Company, a McNaughton organization, whose activities were finally curtailed by a costly lawsuit prosecuted by the United States government for violation of customs laws.

Another center of activities in those days was on the east side of the river from what is now Mill Street, north to the Canada Line. In that area were three tanneries belonging respectively to William W. Herrick, Allen Lincoln, and Benjamin B. Streeter, who was later joined by his brother Grindal. The Herrick tannery was in operation before 1818.

Each tannery in Fort Covington had a shoeshop adjoining it, and it may be presumed that they produced shoes of a little higher "class" than those turned out by the travelling

cobblers. Allen Lincoln was a very enterprising man, and, in addition to his tannery and shoeshop, he owned a store which profited largely by trade across the Line. He became wealthy, his estate being appraised in those days of dear money, at over \$100,000. His son, Allen M., and later, James Blansfield continued the tannery. The Streeters made hats — the old-fashioned high hats or “beavers” which were worn by men who wished to be “stylish.” They had a deep fur or plush coat, and a somewhat yellowish tinge. Mr. Herrick also owned a “bark mill,” which is shown on the map of 1818. Congdon, Campbell, and, later, George A. Cheney had a “clothiery” — supposed to have been a carding mill and dye works. This was sold to John and Alex M. Stewart, who converted the building into a furniture factory.

About a mile south of those mills, and still on the Big Salmon, was a mill believed to have been built by Luther Danforth before 1836. To the west, on the Little Salmon, just beyond the present St. Mary's cemetery, John Starks built, in the late '20s, the first woolen mill that the county ever had. Starks was very unfortunate in business, and, after removing to Malone and failing there, he committed suicide. This mill was rebuilt by Myron Hitchcock. The state census of 1835 reports that, in the previous year, the two mills — Danforth's and Starks' — manufactured 22,407 yards of cloth, valued at \$6,885. But, in the same year, twice that amount of cloth was spun and woven in the farmers' homes, plus more than 20,000 yards of cotton and linen; for practically every adult woman could spin and weave.

The Danforth mill continued in operation almost 100 years, under a succession of owners, the last of whom was Thomas Davidson, who died in 1917, still operating it. Across the river was a saw mill built by Thomas Mears, run in 1875 by S. J. Stewart, and later by Allen Fay for his brothers Joseph and James.

The mill built by George B. R. Gove on the Little Salmon just below the Starks mill had a long and useful history. It was a grist mill, and an unusually efficient one, being given the best facilities available by Gove, a very practical man. Later operators included Sherman B. Rickerson,

Thomas and William Hamilton, and, lastly, Archibald McNair, who died in 1929. His son, Albert, still lives on the property, but the mill has long since disappeared. Nearby was a mill for grinding plaster, which, it is said, was drawn to Plattsburg and sold for fertilizer. Gove also built a sawmill, run at one time by William Hogle; also, a mill for making starch out of potatoes; that was owned later by Allen Lincoln and by Thomas W. Creed. So, Gove Street is a historic spot, recalling many well-known names.

In the vicinity of Deer River Corners, there were quite a few sawmills, run by different pioneers, including the Inman brothers, Jonathan Ordway, Edwin Bean, Winchester Briggs, Allen Ellsworth, and Alonzo and William Ordway. On Pike Creek, David McMillan ran a sawmill in 1813, which was later operated by Stiles Stevens' father.

In Westville, mills were built on the Big Salmon as early as 1804. A sawmill was built by the Wrights on the west side of the river, near Westville Corners, and a grist mill on the east side. Among those who operated them were William Creighton, Ebenezer Man, Guy Meigs, Meigs and Wead, Joel Lyman, William Streeter, George Newell, James — possibly Job-McGregor, Henry Paddock, Samuel McElwain, Samuel Coggin, Henry B. Longley, Amos Cushman, and Alex McMillian. The bridge near them was long referred to as Coggins Bridge.

The mill built near Westville Centre by the Mans, as narrated above, passed out of Man ownership at the time of the War of 1812. Among later owners were Myron Hitchcock (1829), Charles A. Powell, Joel Lyman, Robert Dunlop, and, finally, Robert Clark, who tore it down in 1876. The Mans also had a gristmill at the Centre, which was still being operated by J. J. Stewart in 1917. William and James McRoberts had a tannery on the Little Salmon, about a mile south of Bombay Corners.

Other mills in Westville were built by Welch, Livingston, Hovey and Gleason. James A. and William W. Stockwell built in 1859 a mill which was later used by Milo Dustin as a cheese factory; it was also a cider mill.

Mills in Bombay were also numerous. It will be recalled that Father Anthony Gordan started it all by building his mill at St. Regis in 1762; and also that the first names applied to St. Regis, Hogansburg and Fort Covington were, respectively, St. Regis Mills, Gray's Mills, and French Mills. There are records of mills on the Little Salmon near Bombay Corners, at Dog Hollow, and in South Bombay, as well as on the Reservation near Hogansburg. Owners and operators include Michael Hogan (1811), Mortimer Russell, Jacob G. Reynolds, Charles and Orange Phelps, Thomas Donaldson, Daniel McCarthy, Ernest G. Reynolds, Thomas A. Sears, W. W. Babcock, Sylvester (1849), Amasa Townsend, Alvin Russell, William W. Townsend, William F. Burgess, George Russell, John Wiggins, and John and Thomas Moore.

Surely, the Three Towns well deserved their names of "mill towns" and it is obvious that our "forebears" were mechanically minded, industrious and versatile. The story of all these mills was much the same: the construction of a crude, but serviceable, dam, erection of an inexpensive wooden building, laying out a rough road to it, operating the simple machinery in its sawing, grinding, pressing or churning, collecting the toll or fee, making repairs and exchanging meanwhile the neighborhood or political gossip; then, one day, a freshet or a flash fire in the very inflammable sawdust and debris — that mill was done; maybe another would replace it; maybe not. Today, in scores of places scarred logs, turned up in rebuilding, mark the sites of early and forgotten industrial plants.

The presence of lime in the soil near the Canadian border led to the erection and operation of many limekilns, remains of which can still be seen as one drives along the roads. Among the operators were Jno. Wiggins and James Dougherty in the south part of Bombay, and Michael Bronson, George Poor, Thomas Rogers, and Myron Barber in Westville; in Fort Covington on the Dewey, Foster and Kelley farms. Though no local lime has been used for nearly a century, some of the foundations erected with it are still to be found, strong if not handsome.

Brick was manufactured on a small scale in the 1870s. Dr. Lauriston M. Berry, and an associate, were in that business for about three years, near Westville Corners, but discontinued it for lack of a good market.

At various places in Westville and Bombay there were deposits of bog iron ore, which were worked to a considerable extent. Indeed, Westville Centre was at one time — about the end of the century — commonly referred to as “The Forge.” Capt. David Erwin, Moses Erwin and Edwin Phillips ran the forge there until about 1850. Nails were made which sold for 30 cents a pound — a high price for those days, but justified by the great labor required. Some of those nails were saved recently when the Matthews store building in Fort Covington was torn down. Blacksmiths bought iron at the Forge, for horeshoes, sled runners, etc.

As might be expected, blacksmiths and wheelwrights were indispensable and prominent citizens of the frontier community. In Fort Covington, Matthew Fleming, Donald Chisholm, Seth Blanchard, Calvin Henry were among early operators; John French, his son Joe, and Thomas Mayhew succeeded them in later years. In Westville, Hollister was a pioneer blacksmith; Frank and William Avery, William McCaffrey, Peter Guyette, and Otis Wiley followed him. They were kept busy shoeing horses, and repairing farm equipment until the coming of the auto and tractor.

In South Bombay, early deeds of sawmill lots carried the privilege of “maintaining a dam across the Little Salmon River at or near the site of the old forge” and conveyed two acres of land, known as “the forge lot.” A mile to the west is a deposit of iron ore which is known to have been a source of supply for the iron works at Brasher.

The first activity of the settlers that was consciously directed to manufacturing anything for sale was the making of potash — potassium carbonate — from the ashes of the trees which the settlers cut down to clear their farms. This involved cutting down the forest, hewing off the branches, sawing the trees into logs, hauling and piling the logs and branches, waiting for the timber to partially dry, and then burning it to ashes. All of this the settler and his

family often did by themselves, but with an expenditure of time and effort that we can scarcely imagine. Many of the settlers went further by boiling ashes into lye in huge iron "pots," until the residue formed a dark, sticky mass of potash, which was commonly called "Black salts." The ashes could be sold to merchants for from five to eight cents a bushel; or, if it were "house ashes," and therefore cleaner, could command perhaps a shilling (12½ cents) a bushel. Black salts, or its derivate, pearlash — lighter and finer in quality — could always be sold for cash; and that was, for years, the only dependable cash income that the settlers had; everything else had to be bartered, or "credited" against purchases. For these two reasons — the necessity of clearing off the forest, and the attraction of real money — it is easy to see why the making of potash was so general, despite its difficulty.

Soon, "asheries" sprang up — i.e., establishments that sent teams around to collect the ashes and bring them to a central place where pots were in constant use reducing the ashes to potash or pearlash. There were, at one time, six asheries in the town of Fort Covington, one of which, on the west bank of the Salmon, opposite the mouth of the Little Salmon, was bought by Dennis Denneen in 1846 from William Lea. After making his potash, Denneen shipped it, in his own oaken barrels, to Montreal on the river boats; there it sold readily, at a price of \$60 to \$80 a ton; but, during the Embargo preceding the War of 1812, the price had reached as high as \$300 a ton.

R. J. Fraser describes an ashery in part as follows: "The asheries were set up where plenty of water was available. Under a rough shelter stood the rows of "leach tubs," made with hand-hewn slabs. . . . They were lined with a finely-cut brush over which was spread a covering of quick lime. . . . The product was a crude black caustic potash, or impure potassium carbonate . . . a finer form known as pearlash . . . through extra heating."

Elm and ash gave the largest yield of ashes, but beech and maple were freely burned. It took 30 cords of wood to produce a ton of ashes, which, in turn, would yield a sixth

of a ton of potash. If a farmer wished to make his own potash, he could lease a kettle for \$1 a month. "When a settler had commenced to clear his land, if he owned a potash kettle and an ox, he was considered to be well-off. . . . Patrick Curran hauled two barrels of potash all the way from Laguerre to Fort Covington and sold it to transporter Marsh for \$40 a barrel."

The leading man connected with the manufacture of potash on a large scale was William Hogle, of Fort Covington. Hogle became a rich man by perfecting and carrying on the manufacture of saleratus, a refined potash powder used in cooking. The saleratus was widely distributed, even shipped abroad. Hogle had a wharf and warehouse on the east side of the river, about half-way to Dundee Lines, and was in partnership with the Lincolns and Mears. He also joined E. L. Meigs, of Westville, in chartering steamers to carry his product and other freight to Montreal. One of their boats was the *George Frederick*, of 59 tons burthen, with no mast and one covered deck. In 1851, or thereabout, it collided with another boat and the ensuing litigation and loss of trade ruined Hogle, financially; he died a poor man. Old residents have recalled him as a fastidious dresser, who was accustomed to drive his coach and pair in dignified style, and had a brick coach house built adjoining his house to hold them. His great-niece, Marion Ruddick, says that Mr. Hogle had the nearby brick house, now occupied by James Dempsey, built for his son, Richard Hogle, who later moved away, as did his sisters.

The extinction of the primeval forest that covered the Three Towns was due not only to the need for farming, but to the conversion of timber into ready cash in the form of "salts in June," as the phrase had it. But the never-ending search for a potash substitute finally led to the discovery by the Germans of a cheaper product made from salt, and, with the perfection of that method, the industry Hogle had perfected was priced out of the market; and today, potash of vegetable origin is practically extinct.

Such was the story of Fort Covington's largest attempt at industrialization.

13

THE TOWNS GROW

According to Spofford's Gazetteer, Fort Covington had, in 1824, 49 mechanics, two storekeepers, three gristmills, one fulling mill, two carding machines, one iron works, one nail factory, three tanneries (owned, respectively by Herrick, Lincoln and Streeter), and one ashery.

Advertisers in the FRANKLIN REPUBLICAN in 1828 were: Gove, Johnston, Ora Paddock (drugs) and Thomas Mears (miller, since 1823). In 1830, advertisers included David L. Seymour, Gove — who was now an agent for Orvis & Meeker; Aretus and M. Hitchcock; and two hotels, run, respectively by William Cleveland and James Parker.

I have examined the town assessment roll for the year 1829, in which year James B. Spencer, Henry Moseley and Iraac Denio were the assessors. The roll of taxpayers, showing the real and personal property assessed to each, is beautifully written and perfectly legible in the handwriting of Mr. Spencer, who became, a few years later, the second member of the national Congress whose home has been in Fort Covington. The roll covers ten pages, is alphabetical, and lists 390 taxpayers; this, it must be remembered, covers, also, the present town of Bombay. The assessment was one and one half per cent.

The taxpayers, with the tax assessed to the wealthier ones, include: Four Austins; John Almon; two Babcocks; Rufus Berry; Richard Bean; Jno. Bundy, \$18.00; Robert Buchanan, \$17.88; Christopher Briggs; L. Bereau; Roswell Bates, \$13.72; John L. Burns; Seth Blanchard, \$22.50; two other Briggses; William Creighton; James Campbell; Joseph Chapman; Job Congdon, \$11.75; George A. Cheney; Harvey Clark, \$13.35; Pepperill A. Cross; Edmond Cotter; Michael Croke; Patrick and Michael Collins; John Drum; John Daley; Jno. Dustin; Enos G. Diamond; Luther Danforth, \$18; John Emerson; John Eldredge, William Eldred; three Ellsworths; Cornelius Flaherty; Patrick Feeley; James

Fitzgerald; Frederick Fry; George B. R. Gove, \$18; Luke Gleason; "Widow Gray"; Peter Hannan; Thomas Hamilton; Aretus Hitchcock, \$27.15; Henry W. Herrick, \$10.75; William Hogan, \$41.87; Burrell Howard; William C. Holden; Jacob Hollenbeck ("betterments"), \$4.50; Philip F. Jones, \$7.14; two Jackmans; Robert Johnston, \$15.24; Allen Lincoln, \$29.10; Alonzo W. Merrick; Chipman Marsh; Reuben W. Martin, \$12.00; David and Charles McMillan; John and George "McLewayne,"; Isaac Moseley; William McConnell; three "Mercu"; one "Baptiste"; John Moore (farmer); John Moore (carpenter); Roma and Ruby Matthews; John Maraty; Daniel Noble, \$33.69; James O'Keefe, \$.90; Jno. Ordway, \$11.25; Jabez Parkhurst, \$22.71; David Peets; Ora F. Paddock, \$.80; two Parkers; Daniel Phelps, \$19.13; John A. Quaw, \$4.50; Jno. Rich, Sr., \$10.44; John D. Reynolds; Benjamin Raymond, \$15; William Ryan, \$3.38; Benjamin Sanborn, \$24.73; Alvin R. Smith; James B. Spencer, \$12.71; David L. Seymour, \$28.50; four Teters; Nathan Tuttle, Sr.; Jno. Wallace, \$24.80; and 289 others. Those names doubtless included all the "substantial" property owners, and the great majority, it will be seen, were Yankees. It is interesting and though-provoking to consider how few of the names listed are represented today in the two towns. But many of them had a long and honorable career in this section during much of the hundred years after 1829.

The thirty years preceding the Civil War saw a steady growth in the settlement of the Three Towns and in improvements in living conditions. Many of the pioneer families moved west, but their places were more than filled by others, some of whom played leading roles in our later history. Among those in Fort Covington were the Merricks, Fryes, Reynolds, Henrys, Beans, Russells, Paddocks, besides the earlier Wilsons and Blanchards. They intermarried freely.

The first Merrick to live here was Irvin Anson Merrick, 1808-90. The "Meyricks" were of Welsh descent, but after the conquest of Wales by England, their ancestors were highly honored by the English crown, and were granted an

estate at Bodorgan, on the island of Anglesey, on which the ruins of the old castle may still be seen, as well as a mansion over 300 years old. The first Merrick to come to America was William, who came to Massachusetts in 1636. Having some military training, he was named second in command to Myles Standish in the Plymouth Colony, and was engaged in business transactions with John Alden and John Bradford. The family branched out and moved west, and, soon after the War of 1812, Nathaniel and his family located in Hogansburg. After a short stay, they went to Ohio — all except Irvin Anson, who, about 1835, bought a farm in the "Squire Seth" Blanchard grant, and built the house near the little Deer River, west branch of the Big Salmon, which house is now occupied by his grandson, Raymond.

Irvin Anson married Lorinda Wilson, daughter of Johathan Wilson, Jr., and Diadama Briggs. They had nine children. The fifth became Dr. Hollis W., who, for nearly half a century, was the leading dentist in this area. He and his wife, Harriet Cole, had two daughters, who married brothers Lockwood, who did not live here. Hollis Merrick's next younger brother was Marion P., who married Arabella Reynolds, and spent his life on the farm mentioned above. He was an active, vigorous man, very free to express his opinions, sociable and friendly, whose home was a social center for the neighborhood. His family consisted of two daughters and two sons. One daughter, Maud (Mrs. John Banks), is still living in the village. The youngest son, Irvin Isaac (1884-1961), was an outstanding figure in village life for many years. After a brief career as a farmer, he qualified for the U. S. mail service, and as one of the two original mail carriers in the rural free delivery, Joe Kelley being the other, he was for 33 years a daily figure familiar to all in the town. He inherited the joviality of his parents, and was so popular in the service that he served as president of the Rural Letter Carriers Association of New York State, and delegate to several national conventions.

He was three times married, and is survived by four sons, all by his first wife — Charlotte (1886-1946), daughter of Robert Smart of Dundee, who shared her husband's

arduous duties through many a northern winter. The sons, all graduates of Fort Covington High School, and two of them graduates of Syracuse University, are Raymond, mentioned above; Hollis W., dentist, living in Carthage, N. Y.; Marion P., guard in the Attica state prison; and Dr. Wayne R., Ph.D., presently chairman of the Political Science Department, Allegheny College. It is to his courtesy and industry that I am indebted for most of the foregoing facts. Raymond married Doris Lyons and has one daughter.

Almerin W., older brother of Marion, had a large and productive farm near Fort Covington Center. He married Lois Amy Paine, and had two sons and three daughters, the only one who lived in the town being Anson, who died in 1929, leaving two children, not living here; his wife was Sarah Maud Simes. Almerin Merrick was elected County Clerk in 1872 and 1875. His sister, Mary Jane, married Hannibal Ellsworth.

On the road starting at the Deer River bridge and running west to Bombay, lived families of Wrights, Millers, Paddocks, Longleys, Michauds, Fries, Reardons and Chapmans — some of whom we have met before.

The Longleys were descended from English Quakers. Henry was born in Massachusetts, and was trained as a maker of furniture, and perhaps more practically, of barrels. He married Keziah Fairbanks, of the Fairbanks Scales family. Settling in Fort Covington and finding no Quakers there, he joined the Presbyterians. He became quite a prominent man, was supervisor of the town in 1835. He was a studious man, and wrote papers on history. His wife was Martha Gilmore, and they had six children, including Harriet (Mrs. James Ryan), Martha (Mrs. Norman Bean), and James, 1820-1903, who was commonly called Deacon Longley, although he was actually an elder (Presbyterian). He followed his father's trade, although he cultivated a farm in a half-hearted way — the farm where Vern Brill is now living. Their children were Emma — Mrs. Frank Freeman, of Westville —, Electra Sinclair, mother of Mrs. Henry Ellsworth; Alton, who died at 19, and Almer, who continued on the farm. Almer married Ella, daughter of George

Dewey. Almer was a lovable but impractical man. He died in Fort Covington village in 1922, and is survived by two daughters — Edith (Mrs. Nelson Hilts), of Bangor, and Elizabeth (Betti), an artist and writer in Syracuse. After Almer's death, his widow supported herself by a rooming-house on Salmon Street in the village. She re-married twice, and lived until 1956.

The farm opposite Longley's was occupied by the Milers, and later by Paddocks. Ora Paddock came in 1820 from Woodstock, Vermont, and spent the remainder of his life in Ft. Covington, dying in 1867. He was a doctor, and there was another Dr. Paddock in Massena, whose son was sent to Ft. Covington to attend the Academy; that was in the 1830s. Dr. Paddock's only child was George W., who married Ann Hale Stiles, and lived on the farm for some years, then moved to the village, where he bought the stone house at the corner of Chateaugay and Center Streets, where he and his wife died. His children included Ora Jr., Ezra, Miriam and John. The older brothers worked the farm for a while, and were also partners in a butcher shop located near the upper bridge. Mrs. Ezra Paddock was a daughter of Seymour Elliott, of the well-known pioneer family of that name. Both Ora and Ezra spent their last years in Springfield, Mass. The father of Dr. Ora Paddock, Sr., was probably Stephen, 1766-1849, who is buried in the old town cemetery on Salmon Street.

Miriam, daughter of George, married William J. Donovan and spent her whole life, with the exception of a brief residence in Honesdale, Penn., in Fort Covington, where she was universally liked for her sunny and helpful disposition. Their only daughter, Verna, became the wife of Rev. Gordon B. Addie, then serving St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Rev. Addie had a notable career of service with the Canadian expeditionary forces in World War II, and is presently rector of the large Church of the Ascension in Montreal, and is a canon of the Anglican cathedral there.

The George Frye family owned and lived in a fine property further west on the Bombay road, and the section is still referred to as Frye's Corners. George Frye, whose father

was Fred, was twice married — first, to Abigail Hitchcock, who was the mother of two sons and one daughter; and second, to Jeanette Ross, who had one daughter, Pearl, and one son, Will. Pearl married Burton Reynolds, of the well-known lumbering family of the town of Brandon; she died in 1933, leaving no children. Will married Mabel Goff, and lived in Syracuse. Fred Frye, Jr., lived in Denver, Colorado.

Charles Frye's farm was about two miles east, on the little Deer River. His wife was Harriet Rich, of the pioneer family of that name, referred to above. They had three children: Jane, — Mrs. Clinton Ordway —; Ada — Mrs. George Henry —, and Helen — Mrs. Will Davis, who lived on the farm until her death in 1942. Mrs. Davis had eight children — four sons and four daughters. Of these, only Hilda (Mrs. Hilda Holden) lived in Fort Covington. Bessie (Mrs. O. L. Adams) and Herman are living in Westville.

East of Charles Frye's was the farm of Thomas Brill, who married Elizabeth Blanchard. After her death in 1919, Mr. Brill moved to the village, and made his home at Mrs. Longley's boarding house; he died about 1930. His daughter Mabel — Mrs. Max Brayton — is living in Malone; and his son John, has the former Charles Wilson farm. Both Tom Brill and his son Vern were genial men, whose jokes and mimicry were enjoyed by their neighbors.

Ralph Henry was born in 1812 in Vermont. He bought the house at Fort Covington Centre in 1856 from Mrs. Albion Wright (mother of Fred Wright). He married Jane Short in 1849. They had twelve children, including Melissa, Helen (Ellsworth), George, Rebecca, Nancy, Bertha (Ordway), Charles, Sarah (Kingston), and some who died young. George married Ada Frye, and lived most of his life in Fort Covington village, on Center Street, and conducted an insurance business. He was active in Republican politics, and held the offices of supervisor, school commissioner, and county sheriff. His children were Ada (Smith), Margaret (Keats), and Gladys, who retired in 1960 from the schools of Catskill, N. Y. The Henry home, where the large family grew up, is now closed, and a new modern house

has been erected by the sisters on the farm property, a little to the west.

In the southern part of the town, George Howard had a large farm, with an imposing white house, which was later destroyed by fire. George's father was Col. Howard. George married Caroline Wilson, and their children were Charles W., James, George, Jr., Mary (DeGowin), Frances (Buell), and Pearl (Kellogg). Charles married Agnes DeGowin and his sons, Harold and Eugene, were both farmers. Eugene is now living in the Donovan house on Salmon Street. His son Roger is a very enterprising young man, active in several lines.

In the FRANKLIN TELEGRAPH in 1821, Jane Howard advertised for sale "a house and small plot in the most southerly part of the village of Ft. Covington, adjoining the military land." In the old cemetery on Salmon Street is the tombstone of Burrell Howard, 1795-1855. He was the father of William, who lived near the Westville line, and whose children included Burrell Jr., Fred, who lived in Chicopee, and Grace (Thomas). Charles Howard was long a popular clerk in the Gillis drugstore. His daughters are Frances (McNair), Lillian, and Gladys (Dustin) of Bombay.

Hiram Russell came from Washington County before 1812, and took up a farm on Drum Street. His family included his sons, Hiram, Jr., George, Daniel and Humphrey, and daughters Fanny (Young), Mary, who was nicknamed "Tot," and Cornelia (Mrs. Rollin Blanchard). Hiram, Jr. was the father of Briggs, Daniel, James and George. Daniel, who was always known as "Tucker," was best known as a horseman; in the days of the "trots" on the ice at Dundee, "Tucker," driving his own fast horses, was a consistent winner. He lived for years on the first farm on the north side of the Hogansburg road, after the Bombay road branches off. He died in 1928. His daughter, Lillian, is still living in the village. Humphrey, had a son, Henry, and a daughter Ida, a dressmaker highly respected but of a melancholy disposition, and who met a sad death. Rodney, lived on a farm in Ste. Agnes for a while, but returned to Fort Covington, and for years conducted the chief livery stable in the town.

He married Sarah, sister of Paul Grant. Their daughter Hulda married "Wash" Smith, widely known as a trainer of horses. Their family included Jesse and Rod, Florence (Barr), still living in Chicago, and Blanche (Schryer), whose sons have never lived here. Lovisa Russell married Jacob Hollenbeck, who was one of the best-known farmers in the area — a large man of great strength; it was told of him that he could straighten out a heavy horseshoe with his bare hands. He owned several farms along the west roads; and in his old age retired to the village, living in the house just east of the present Episcopal church.

His children were Gertrude (Shields), Maude (Buchanan), Edward (married Etta Buchanan), and George (married Jennie Hanna). The sons moved in 1920 to Swanton, Vermont, and later to Lisbon, New Hampshire, where they established a successful glove manufactory, but they maintained close connections with their boyhood friends and often revisited the old town. Maria Russell married Alexander Chisholm. William Russell, Jr., son of William, Sr., of the first generation, had a daughter Flora, who married into the Kingsley family.

There were Russells also in South Bombay. Charles Russell ran the grist mill there. His son, George, born in 1865, was postmaster. George's son Wesley now lives in Fort Covington village; his wife is the former Marian Smith, who was secretary for a number of years to Congressman Kilburn.

The town of Westville grew considerably during the pre-Civil War period. In 1846 Edmund Towne brought his family from Vermont, and settled on what is now the Claflin farm. The pioneer Hoadleys, Marshes and Hardys arrived, about the same time. Benjamin Hoadley bought 100 acres of wilderness for \$2.25 an acre. He had lived for a while in Bangor, where he married Martha Gallup; they had four sons and five daughters. His oldest son, Amos, born in 1836, was a carpenter. He married Sally Avery, daughter of Robert Avery and Maria Esterbrook. They had two sons and three daughters. His son Cortez conducted the farm until his death in 1936. After that, his daughter Ella's husband —

Herman Avery — ran the farm, and now his son Wesley has it. Edna married Ernest Armstrong; and one of their sons — Robert — married to Gyneth Badore, lives on the farm that his great-grandfather, McFadden started from the wilderness over a century ago. His brother, Douglas — married to Jane Stewart — has an adjoining farm. All these Hoadley descendants have prolific families, and have played useful parts in the history of the town.

The Chapmans were numerous in the town at that time. Between 1834 and 1855 occurred the marriages of Robert, Margaret Ann, Susan, William A., John B., Jane and Abram, children of William, who was born in 1787; but I do not have the names of their wives or details concerning their families.

Elisha Stockwell and his wife Elizabeth were both born in 1790. They married in 1812, and had eleven children, four of whom were married in the 1850s. One was George, 1823-1904, who was married to Rozilla Stiles on August 31, 1850, by Samuel Man, Justice of the Peace. Their son, Charles, married Miriam G. Hoxie, of Fay Corners in 1895, whose daughter Ola Mae Stockwell is on the staff of the Salmon Central School.

Silas and George Avery were early settlers in Westville. Silas married Matilda Elliott, and they had four sons and four daughters, and seventeen grandchildren. George married Mary Rhinehart. They had five sons and four daughters and 26 grandchildren; six of these were children of two of the daughters who married, Emma Nokes and Ethel Nokes. The Nokes were old settlers in Westville, and one Nokes owned the farm adjoining that of Colburn Grant, near the bridge at Westville Corners. Mr. and Mrs. David Avery lived east of Cook's Corners, where they settled on a backwoods farm which they cleared by years of unremitting labor, and they lived to see it embrace almost 500 acres. Their neighbors included the families of Moses and Egbert Southworth, Charles and Osa Wilson, Sidney, George and Samuel Vidger, Lewis Gabrey and Marshall Kelly. There have been Averys living in Westville during all the years since, and they have had a prominent share in the com-

munity. One of the modern bearers of the name is Faith Avery, who retired from teaching at Catskill, N. Y., in 1958, after 37 years of faithful service, the latter part as principal of Irving School there. She was the daughter of Frank Avery and Ella Barber.

In the neighborhood of Cook's Corners there lived some families of the important Southworth family of Bangor, whose name was always pronounced locally as though spelled "Suthard." The Southworths came from England in the early days of Massachusetts Bay Colony, and one of them married William Bradford, the famous governor. The Southworth coat of arms carries the motto "Sublimiora Spectimus" — "We seek the higher things" — and they have indeed produced many notable persons of social and professional achievement, though, unfortunately for our story, none of them lived in the Three Towns. Norman, son of Francis, whose father, Constant (the 5th) was the pioneer in northern New York, married Almeda Hutchins of Westville. Mary married Charles Wilson. Moses married Martha Steinberge, and her sister Harriet married Henry Kelsey. Kelsey was a good singer, and conducted singing-school classes, which were popular diversions of those times and scenes of many a romance. A songbook then used, filled with such old favorites as "Swinging 'Neath the Old Apple Tree" is a prized possession of Mrs. Ada Hutchins Wilson of Olean, New York, whose mother was born Nellie Southworth. Others of the family who lived in the Three Towns were William Chapman and Guy Hutchins, of Milton, North Dakota, who was a rancher in the northwest.

The towns grew steadily, and the rising demand for "store goods" led to many new stores, some of which had short lives. The pioneer merchants of whom I have spoken — such as Aiken, Raymond, Manning and Clendenning — died, or went out of business. Charles Marsh, whose two-story warehouse on the bank of the Salmon had been an outstanding center of both wholesale and retail business, failed in 1850. Among the merchants who were active just before the Civil War, we find, in Fort Covington: Orvis & Meeker, William Hogle, Allen M. Lincoln and S. V. R. Tuthill; Jno.

Rich; S. E. Blood, who started as a clerk for Mr. Hogle in Bombay; J. G. Reynolds, Thomas Barlow and Alfred Fulton in Westville; Solon Chapin; Wells & Parker; Meigs and Wead; Henry G. Button; Edwin Phillips and John Doty and Goodrich Hazen. There were also various "line stores" such as William Tolmies' near Trout River, and Perrica's at the Beaver. These made their profit by taking advantage of the differential between prices of various staples in the U. S. and those in Canada. Probably none of the stores named did as large a business as John Davidson's at Dundee Lines, strikingly described in his versified advertisement reproduced in Robert Fraser's book.

The chief articles sold in these stores were cloth of all kinds for suits and dresses, salt, tea, hardware, spices, pins, scissors, candy, paper and pens, simple medicines such as castor oil, and a variety of liquors. It is remembered that native whiskey was in a conspicuous position, in a pail near the door, and that a dipperful could be had for five cents. On one occasion, Jacob Wade — a prominent farmer near Deer River, who may have built the stone house known as Jim Blood's — failed to come in, one Saturday, for his usual five gallons; and when this was mentioned to him by storekeeper Meigs, the next week, Mr. Wade replied that he had been too busy the Saturday before, but would take ten gallons today!

Prices were what we would call ridiculously low; but even so, much use was made of "due bills" — orders permitting extension of credit to the bearer, guaranteed by some signer who had money. Examples are: "Mr. Gove: Sir, please let Mr. G. Button have five dollars eighteen cents 4th April 1829. Yours W. Whelply." "Mr. Saml Sanborn, Jr.: Sir please to pay John Rich three Dollars and seventy-five cents on account of R. C. Hovey Fortcovington 24th March 1829."

The stores had competition from the peddlers, who, as soon as the various settlements became connected by roads — albeit rought ones — appeared with their packs of "notions" and novelties. They supplied housewives with pots and pans, and many little conveniences that helped take the

rough edge off life under frontier conditions. They brought, too, the news and gossip of the outside world; some of them travelled long distances. Not infrequently, the peddler was something of an entertainer; and, invariably, he was welcomed as one who relieved the monotony. By all odds, the most famous of these peddlers was Ephraim Grimes, who traversed the North Country for a number of years in the 1830s. He is said to have first appeared in Fort Covington in 1835, and to have made it his home for a few years, following the occupation of a shingle-maker and shingler. He was employed by S. W. B. Wilson, and among the buildings that bore his shingles were barns belonging to Solon Storm and Simon Smith. There has just been printed in the *SUN* of Jan. 25, 1962, an excellent contributed article on "Old Grimes," to which the reader is referred for most entertaining reading. This article stresses Grimes' connections with St. Lawrence County, but describes him as a typical Connecticut Yankee whom Mark Twain would have revelled in. "He was a genuine Uncle Sam of Puck or Judge in appearance. . . . His nose was of the Roman variety, long and hooked, and he wore a little puff of reddish-gray whiskers on his chin and always had one cheek bulged out with a wad of fine cut." He was a perfect practical joker, as the article's narration of several of his pranks proves. It may be that it was this trait that caused his downfall, if, as Seaver says, he was discovered to be a counterfeiter of silver coins and had to run away; he lived for some time at the Spencer tavern; other accounts say that members of his family took him away. Long after he had gone, his name was well-remembered when that of worthier men had been almost forgotten; for Grimes found immortality in a famous old ballad, of which I reproduce four stanzas:

"Old Grimes he had a speckled hen,
A good old hen was she;
She used to lay two eggs a day,
On Sundays she laid three.
The squirrel is a pretty bird
That wears a bushy tail;
He used to steal Old Grimes's corn
And eat it on the rail.

Old Grimes had gone to pick some sticks
To build his chimney higher;
To keep his neighbor's girls and boys
From putting out his fire.
Old Grimes is dead, that good old soul,
We ne'er shall see him more;
He ever wore a long blue coat
Brass-buttoned down before."

The '50s were a time of surging optimism in the Three Towns, with new arrivals more than offsetting the deaths of earlier pioneers and the departure of others. Large families were not uncommon, as our examples above show, and rapid progress was made in clearing land and erecting buildings. There was much hard work, but there was also much friendly enjoyment. In the fall of 1852, the Franklin County Fair was started, and, although it met some religious opposition, it was welcomed by most of the people as a praiseworthy project which would entertain them as well as advertise new agricultural and mechanical improvements. Horse racing was a feature from the beginning and has remained so. The Fair has been held annually, with the exception of one year — 1862, during the Civil War. The Three Towns have always shown a commendable interest in exhibiting at and patronizing the Fair; and our residents — including, in later years, the Four H Clubs and other young people, — have won their share of awards.

The extent to which the second generation of settlers took up lands on which to establish homes can be readily verified, with time and patience, by a study of the County Clerks' records. The Register of Deeds shows that in Township No. 2 — Fort Covington — between 1804 and 1820, fifteen men, nearly all of whom I named in Chapter Four above, received deeds of from fifteen acres to 155 acres. In 1825 to 1835, seven men — Seth Blanchard, Jonathan Wilson, Noel LaFleur, Isaac Fairchild, Azzal Purdy, Henry G. Button, Gilbert Wright — and one woman, Lorinda Blanchard, got deeds, mostly in Westville, from Basent and Bleeker, land agents; Gilbert Wright got 1000 acres. He also got 1215 acres in August, 1836, "consideration, \$7,000; a

county road passed through, and it was near the river."

Small deeds — some of them tinted — show deeds to 32 men between 1855 and 1868. They are mostly men whom we have already written of, but among other names we find Learment, Niles, Hoyt and Patch, in Westville.

A "Gazeteer and Directory of Franklin and Clinton Counties for 1862-3, published by Hamilton & Child, Ogdensburg," after giving a paragraph to describing Fort Covington town, and commenting that "in earlier times a large amount of the best timber had been stolen and sold in the Montreal market," lists the businessmen then in town — very likely all in the village — as follows:

"Ambrotypist (photographer), one (William Peck); Architects, two; Asheries, two; Bakery, one; Blacksmiths, eight; Boat Builders, two; Books and Stationery, one (Alex Smallman); Boots and Shoes, five; Butcher, one (Frank Berry); Brick Makers, two; Carpenters and Joiners, seven; Carriage Makers, six; Chair Maker, one; Cloth Dressers, three; Clothing, one (Elam G. Burch); Confectioner, one (George C. Cross & Co.); Coopers, four (two LaFlesh); Dressmakers, two (Susan Campbell, Maria McMillan); Druggists, three (John S. Parker, Job Congdon, D. Gillis & Co.); Furniture Dealers, one (John and Alex Stewart); General Merchants, eight, (Kimball & McPherson, John A. Quaw, Donald McPhee, William L. Streeter, Charles B. Minkler, William Hogle, Nathum H. Burch, Thomas W. Creed); Grist Mills, two; Gunsmith, one; Hair Dresser, one; Harness Makers, three; Insurance and Land Agent, one (H. A. Paddock); Livery Stables, four; Liquor Dealers, three; Masons, ten (including four Fryes and three McCarters); Milliners, four; Mill Wrights, two; Music Teacher, one; Newsdealer, one; Painters, two; Planing Mills, four; Saloons, three; Sawmills, three (Henry A. Paddock, Hamlet B. Mears, Albon Danforth); Stage Proprietors, two (Isaac Hollenbeck, Hannibal A. Herrick); Starch Factories, two; Surveyors, two (Luke Webb, Milton Saunders); Tailors, two; Tallow Chandler, one; Tanner, one (Allen M. Lincoln); Tinware and Stoves, two; Wood Dealers, two.

Such was Fort Covington after its first half-century.

14

GOVERNMENT AND STATISTICS

The public business of the Three Towns is governed by their legal obligations to the federal government, the State of New York, Franklin County and the various judicial districts.

Franklin County was organized on March 11, 1808, when it was set apart from Clinton County by act of the Legislature; it was granted one assemblyman, which has never been changed; it was put into a Senate district with seven other counties, extending as far as Albany; into a Congressional district with Washington, Clinton and Essex Counties, and into the "eastern judicial district" of the state. The assignment of counties to these districts has been changed from time to time, for population or political reasons. At the present time, our county is in the 40th Senate district with Clinton and St. Lawrence counties, in the 33rd Congressional district with St. Lawrence, Lewis, Jefferson and Oswego, and into the 4th judicial district, with ten other counties. The Three Towns have never had an actual resident who was in the State Senate, although Frederick D. Kilburn, who was a senator in 1894-5, and was later State Superintendent of Banks, was born in Fort Covington and educated at its Academy. We have, however, had two members of Congress, — William Hogan and James B. Spencer, both of Fort Covington.

Fort Covington was organized on Feb. 28, 1817, being set aside from Constable, and including all the land from the present Westville boundary westward to the St. Lawrence County boundary.

Westville was formed with its present limits from the town of Constable on April 25, 1829.

Bombay was formed out of Fort Covington on May 1, 1833. The action was, in each case, by the State Legislature, on petition of the residents affected.

Our relations with the federal government, over the years, have been the normal ones arising out of the enforcement of the United States laws, such as immigration, military service, etc. The two principal fields which caused unusual activity here are the collection of customs duties on imports from Canada — much stricter than it used to be — and the hectic campaign to try to enforce national prohibition in the days of the Volstead Act.

There has always been a U. S. Customs office at Fort Covington. It was for many years in the Grand Trunk Railroad depot, but in 1934 the government built a fine new building near the river, at the top of the rise of land approaching Dundee.

Canadian Customs offices are maintained at Dundee, St. Regis, and at Trout River, at which places residents of the Three Towns are required by law to report, when they wish to go into Canada, even to visit friends. As may be readily surmised, this requirement was commonly disregarded in earlier days, when smuggling of moderate amounts of articles needed for domestic consumption was considered "good Scotch thrift and canny business . . . not as a reprehensible crime." Often, Canadian officers and their families — including Leon McCaffrey's and Adrian O'Reilly's — lived in the Fort, and were welcomed into our social and business life.

U. S. Customs Officers — whose official title is Deputy Collector in charge — stationed at Fort Covington include: John Hunsden, George B. R. Gove, James Campbell (1812), John McCrea, Samuel H. Payne (1838, removed), Seth Blanchard, S. E. Blood, Ezra Stiles, Philo A. Matthews, A. S. Creighton, S. V. R. Tuttle (Tuthill), James B. Spencer, George S. Henry (1889-95), Paul Grant, Sidney Ellsworth, Guy Hollister, Rodney Russell, Louis Demers, Conrad Myers, S. C. Washburn, Harry B. Leonard, John F. Lacombe (1911-36), George H. Campbell (1912-25), A. C. Rowley (1924-29), K. B. Wood (1924-27), Donald H. Matteson (1927 to date), Earl S. Wilson (1930-52), Walter J. Shinn (1938-52), and a number of temporary inspectors. Mr. Matteson is the present collector in charge, having

been appointed in May, 1936, to succeed Mr. Lacombe, who had died, two months earlier. The Inspectors serving under him are Roger H. Lucas, George B. Munn, Raymond C. Bessette, Alfred J. Laraby and Russell R. Tolosky. The first five of these men were awarded pins certifying to 145 years of Custom service, up to 1962; Mr. Laraby having the most — 40 years.

Among the officers who have served at the Fort in the Immigration service, we find the names of Frank Thompson, about 1924; John Casey, 1938; and at the present time, William Boyle, since 1947; Ian Ash and Anthony Caruso.

During the time Hogansburg had a Customs Office, Spencer Ward (1851) was an early officer. John W. Bero was Deputy Collector there for 32 years. His successors were William Nautel and James Walsh. After the planking of the New York and Ottawa Railroad bridge, Nyando became known as Roosevelttown, and most of the customs business formerly done in Hogansburg was transferred there. Ernest Flynn, who married Eileen Moore, daughter of Charles Moore of Ste. Agnes and Fort Covington, did much of the work at Hogansburg, until 1962, when he was transferred to his home town, Chateaugay.

These Customs Offices are considered important areas in our relations with Canada, and have always been carefully supervised. Figures of the volume of business and amount of collections are difficult to obtain, and seldom find their way into public print. There is a casual reference in THE SUN to the effect that \$2,000 was collected in duties at Fort Covington during the month of August, 1903.

Undoubtedly, the activity of the federal government that most nearly touches the lives of the people is the mail service. There has been a post office at Fort Covington since its earliest days, but it was not until 1961 that it was lodged in a building especially built for it. Among the places rented by the government and used as a post office in former days in Fort Covington village have been: the present Lamay jewelry store, the Kohout drugstore; Firemen's Hall, Albert Leger's store, the Cosgrove block and the Dempsey store. Then, acting on the vigorous initiative of C. Walter Small-

man, the present postmaster, a post office was erected on the lot north of the residence of Robert Regan, on Water Street, from whom the lot was purchased. Dedication ceremonies and "open house" took place on May 27, 1961, before a considerable audience. Talks were given by Congressman Kilburn, Assemblyman Plumadore, Msgr. Dumas and Rev. James E. Morton.

There are postoffices at Bombay and Hogansburg, but the residents of Westville are now served from Constable by rural delivery. Postmasters who have served the various offices are the following, with dates:

At Fort Covington: Before 1816 — James H. Hansdale; Mar. 11, 1816 — John P. Androse (sic); June 14, 1817 — James B. Spencer; May 7, 1818 — William Hogan; Dec. 28, 1820 — Jno. Wallace; May 13, 1830 — Azel Hayward; Mar. 6, 1835 — James B. Smallman; 1837-41 — Theodore Rogers; 1841-44 — John Parker; 1844-47 — Francis D. Flanders; 1847-49 — Solon Perrin; 1848-53 — Joseph Spencer; 1853-60 — James H. Winslow; 1860-61 — John M. Doty; 1861-69 — Joseph Spencer; 1869-70 — Edwin H. Russell; 1870-85 — Henry C. Congdon; 1885-90 — James Dempsey; 1890-94 — George H. McArtney; 1894-98 — William Creed; 1898-1914 — Thomas A. Chisholm; 1914-23 — Charles E. Dempsey; 1923-35 — William D. Creighton; 1935-54 — Mrs. Nellie Taillon. She was the first postmaster to receive a permanent non-political appointment; she resigned on June 1, 1954. Mrs. Madeline Leroux was Acting Postmaster until October 31, 1955. 1955 to date: C. Walter Smallman. Mrs. Leroux is the regular clerk at the Fort Covington postoffice; Mrs. Hattie Grant often assists. Ralph McGowan and Sherman Gibbs bring mail by car from Malone and Moira, respectively, delivering mail to patrons, en route. Herman Latreille is a rural carrier.

Fort Covington Centre postoffice was established on Oct. 2, 1857, suspended from July, 1871 to Mar. 3, 1880, and discontinued on Oct. 20, 1905. Its postmasters were: 1857-62, Alpheus Ellsworth; 1862-70, Alonzo Ordway; 1870-71, R. N. Cushman; 1880-81, George W. Beaman; 1881-82, George S. Henry; 1882-84, Clinton Ordway; 1884

(five months), Charles Frye; 1884-88, George Henry; 1888-98, John H. Kingston; 1899-1904, Sarah F. Kingston (John's wife); 1904-5, Henry Ellsworth.

There was a post office at Cooks' Corners, but I have not obtained any data on it.

Westville Centre post office was established on May 8, 1865, and was discontinued on January 31, 1920. It was located in the Sim Wiley store. The postmasters were: 1865 (five months), Carlton P. Wells; 1865-73, also 1876-85, and 1889-93, Solon B. Chapin; 1872-76, John S. Parker; 1885-89, Guy Hollister; 1893-98, William McCaffrey; 1898-1905, Mrs. Nina Chapin; 1905-14, Simeon Wiley; 1914-15, Bertha M. Wiley; 1915-20, William A. Ordway.

West Constable (Westville Corners) post office was established on January 12, 1828, and discontinued on November 30, 1906. It was usually kept in the building used as a store and home by Alonzo Rhoades. The postmasters were: 1828-33, Ebenezer Man; 1833-38, Sewall Gleason; 1838-39, Richard E. Morey; 1839-42, Henry G. Button; 1842-44, Daniel P. Brigham; 1844-47, and 1858-63, Charles Johnson; 1847-53, William C. Gleason; 1853-56, Amos W. Cushman (also 1857-58); 1863-66, Ebenezer Leonard; 1866-69, James A. Stockwell; 1869-70, Charles H. Osgood; 1870-71, Thomas McCullough; 1871-72, Warren J. Towers; 1872-79, Gilbert T. Clark; 1879-85, Lauriston M. Berry; 1885-86, John Seeley; 1886-89, Clara Seeley; 1889-93, also 1897-1906, Alonzo A. Rhodes; 1893-4, Joseph Walker; 1894-95, Mrs. Priscilla Walker; 1895-6, Leslie C. Freeman; 1896-97, Sidney R. Dewey.

A post office was established at Briggs Street, "1¼ mile east of West Constable" on January 26, 1900, and was named Chapin. It was discontinued on July 30, 1904. The postmasters were: 1900-1904, Sidney L. Dewey; 1904 (five months), Henry McCabe.

Bombay post office was established on January 3, 1838. It has been conducted in various stores at Bombay Corners and is presently in the former Cross store, which is now leased by the government from its owner, Norman Stowell. The post office was modernized and refurnished in the sum-

mer of 1961. The post-masters have been: 1838-45, Wilson Randall; 1845-48, Preserved Ware; 1846-49, Benjamin Reynolds; 1849-55, Almanzo Robinson; 1855-58, Schuyler Button; 1858-61, Person (1) Rolfe; 1861-64, Thomas C. Davis; 1864-68, Warren Whitney; 1879-85, Hazen K. Cross; 1885-89, Ernest G. Reynolds; 1889-93, Thomas A. Sears; 1893-98, Ezra S. Paddock; 1898-1901, Daniel N. Cross; 1901-07, Henry W. Turner; 1907-16, Charles R. Matthews; 1916-21, Henry J. Griffin; 1921-30, Ray S. Barlow; 1931-34, George E. Rockwood; 1934-37, Neal Sullivan; 1937-40, Timothy J. Cotter (also acting 1942-3); 1940-59, Frank Crowley; 1959-60, William Montross (acting); 1960-61, James R. Francey (acting); 1961 to date, Daniel F. Mulvana.

South Bombay post office was established on May 14, 1856, and was discontinued November 15, 1906. The post-masters have been: 1856-73, George T. Burgess; 1873-5, George Churchill; 1875 (seven months), Mrs. Jane Churchill; 1875-85, Charles T. Russell; 1885-89, Jonas Phelps (also 1893-98); 1889-93, William B. Babcock; 1898-1906, George W. Russell. The neighborhood is now served from Moira.

Hogansburg post office was established on July 22, 1824. The name was officially spelled with a final "h" until 1893. The postmasters have been: 1824-30, William Hogan; 1830-45, Gurdon S. Mills; 1845-49, John Ware; 1948-50, Frederick J. Mills; 1850-57, Ezra Woolson; 1857-69 and 1885-1889, Alfred Fulton; 1869-1885 and 1889-1893, Sidney G. Grow; also from June 25, 1897 to June, 1902, when he was removed from office; 1893-97, Peter Daly, Jr.; 1902-04, Margaret L. Burke; 1904-43, Francis Sanjule; 1943-45, Mrs. Florence Bradford; 1945-54 (resigned), Jess J. Lantry; 1954-55, Katherine E. Bero (acting); 1955 to date, William H. Bero.

Rural Free Delivery was introduced in 1905, and during the many years since then, in all kinds of weather and road conditions, our local mailmen have "carried on" in the best spirit of cooperation with the United States mail service. Irvin Merrick and Joe Kelley were the rural delivery-

men for over thirty years, and, equally with them, the arduous but uncomplaining service of their loyal wives — Lottie (Smart) and Stella (Reardon), who relieved them on many a day, should never be forgotten. Other “knights of the road” of former days included John LeClair, Frank Mulvana and Anna M. Boyer.

Letter rates in early days, like today’s parcel post, were governed by distance and weight of contents. In 1840, it is recorded that the postage on a one-sheet letter carried from Moira to Fort Covington was ten cents, while a similar-sized letter to New York or Washington required 18½ cents. Envelopes were not used until the 1840s, and commemorative stamps, so lucrative today, came in during this century.

On the county level, the activity of the towns was expressed chiefly in the proceedings of the Board of Supervisors and in the records of other county officials who were elected from time to time from one of the Three Towns. Henry J. Rockwood, of Bombay, served his town as supervisor for fourteen years (1842-55), during six of which he was chairman of the Board and spent much time at the county seat. Others who have held county offices include: Assemblymen: William Hogan, 1822; George B. R. Gove, 1823-1848; James Campbell, 1826; James B. Spencer, 1830-31; John S. Eldredge, 1839-40; James W. Kimball, 1864-66; Floyd J. Hadley, 1885-87; Allen S. Matthews, 1891-93; Thomas A. Sears, 1894-98; Charles R. Matthews, 1903-06.

Surrogates or County Judges; James B. Spencer, 1823; William Hogan, 1829; Roswell Bates, 1837; Henry A. Paddock, 1859-63.

District Attorneys: Henry A. Paddock, 1853; Walter H. Payne, 1856.

County Clerks: George B. R. Gove, 1825; Uriah D. Meeker, 1834-40; Edgar S. Whitney, 1855-58; Almerin Merrick, 1873-76.

Sheriffs: James Campbell, 1815; Rufus R. Stephens, 1848; James C. Sawyer, 1854; James A. Stockwell, 1875-

1881; Edward F. Rowley, 1893; George S. Henry, 1905; George F. Donahue, 1924.

The matter of caring for the poor caused considerable friction between the county and the towns in the early days. The expense of relieving the paupers who, Seaver says, "were those who had no legal residence in a town and were mostly foreigners" was divided between the towns and the county. Between 1820 and 1826, the towns spent \$3,524.27 and the county \$1,854, "of which more than one-half was expended in Fort Covington." Many of the taxpayers, who were poor themselves, resented the expense. An attempt was made in 1818 to build a poorhouse in conjunction with Constable; but the latter town declined.

Bounties for the destruction of wild animals and birds of prey were paid for by both the state, the counties and the towns in early days, and amounted to considerable sums. When fraudulent claims were fabricated and presented for payment, a scandal broke, which led to an investigation by the legislature in 1822. It was found that Franklin County had approved claims to the amount of \$31,369 during the previous year. The legislature passed a law fixing the maximum that could be spent in one year at \$1,000; and other laws prescribing specific acts intended to check frauds. The bounty on a wolf had started at \$5, but had been steadily raised to \$40. Other bounties were \$10-\$20 for a panther, \$1 for a fox, 25 cents for a crow, 3 cents for a striped squirrel, 6 cents for a blackbird. Each award was made by a Justice of the Peace, and it was testified that many clever schemes were used to cheat the justices, and it was commonly asserted that some justices were corrupted by bribes; so, the law was amended to require an assessor to sit with the justice. The report of the investigating commission has long ago been conveniently "lost." So have the wolves. The last bounty for a wolf head was paid in 1875. But in 1933, Willard Webb, nineteen years old, of Fort Covington, created a sensation by shooting a 70-pound wolf on his father's farm; and, far from being criticized, Willard was visited by an agent of the State Conservation Commission and received a personal letter of thanks from Commissioner Osborne for

his "generous gesture" in surrendering the animal's body for scientific study.

The first town meeting in Fort Covington was held at the house of Joseph Spinner on the first day of April, 1817. The following town officers were elected: Supervisor, Sebius Fairman; Town Clerk, Amos Welch; Justices of the Peace, Wareham Hastings, James B. Spencer, Jno. Walen (Wallace?); Assessors, Seth Blanchard, Isaac Fairchild, David Danforth; Collector: Isaac Fairchild; Commissioners of Highways, Daniel Church, Luther Danforth, Wareham Hastings; Overseers for the Poor, Luther Danforth, Ambrose Cushman; Commissioners of Common Schools, Sebius Fairman, Isaac Fairchild, Seth Blanchard; Inspectors of Common Schools, Jno. Wallace, John M. Rogers, Ezekiel Payne; Constables, Isaac Fairchilds, William Whelpley; Fence Viewers, Seth Blanchard, Luther Danforth, David McMillan; Pound Keepers, Aretus M. Hitchcock, Barzillai D. Hitchcock, David McMillan. There was no dearth of officials in the little community, even if there was a shortage of qualified men to fill them, which resulted in the 28 offices being divided among seventeen men. There is no mention of salary, but future town meetings approved bills for officers' expenses, which we may be sure were jealously scrutinized. The highway districts were renumbered, and all of Bombay was put into one district. It was voted that the barns and barnyards of the pound-keepers were to be the pounds for stray animals.

Town meetings continued to be held annually and in the spring until 1917, when the Legislature changed the time to the fall. The number of officers varies considerably from year to year; thus, five inspectors of common schools are listed for 1826, only three in 1837; constables increased to four in 1826, five in 1827. Fence Viewers are mentioned for the last time in 1849. Pound Keepers are mentioned only occasionally, the last one being named in 1851 — Toussaint Laruche, who seems to have been the first Frenchman to hold a town office. Game Constables appear frequently; in 1883, Duncan Gillis was elected "Special Game Constable." In 1877, and again in 1883, Town Auditors

were elected. In 1892 — the year of an exciting presidential election — no fewer than ten Inspectors of Election were provided, on a bi-partisan basis; one of them was my brother, Clarence, who was not yet of age.

The topic most frequently argued at the town meetings were poor relief, the highways, and sometimes the excise. On April 27, 1847, the voters were asked to vote on whether licenses should be granted to individuals to sell intoxicating liquors, on which question each town had been given "local option"; 170 voted Yes, 145 No.

In 1940, the town of Fort Covington purchased a wood lot, on the Oscar Hoyt farm in South Bombay, "to employ able-bodied men who are now on relief rolls," approximately 20 men. The SUN states that a similar project had worked out very well the previous year.

Supervisors of Fort Covington since its formation have included: Sebius Fairman, Isaac Fairchild, George B. R. Gove, William Hogan, James B. Spencer, Wilson Randall (1831), Uriah D. Meeker, Henry Longley, Tilness Briggs, James Campbell, Jno. Wallace (1840), Sidney Briggs, Warren L. Manning, Schuyler Button, Stephen V. R. Tut-hill, Preserved Ware (1852), Chandler Ellsworth, William Hogle, Henry A. Paddock (1859), William Gillis, 1860, James W. Kimball (1861-65), John S. Parker, Hiram N. Burns (1877), James Y. Cameron (1880-83), Almerin Merrick, George S. Henry, Allen S. Matthews (1889-91), Garret W. Hart, James N. McArtney (1896-1912), George F. Donahue, John Webb, George W. Wilson, John W. Webb, William P. Macartney, Howard Lyons, (1938-47), James F. Mills, Kenneth Stewart, Harold LaMay (resigned), Floyd Brockway, Charles R. Finch (1961 to date).

Many of those men served several terms, and it speaks well for the good spirit of the townsmen to note that positions were found for some worthy citizens who had fallen financially on evil days.

Fort Covington has been excellently served by many capable and cooperative Town Clerks, whose faithful services the citizens have been wise enough to reward by re-election — often unanimously — term after term. The

present Town Clerk — A. M. “Dick” Cappiello — has taken a personal interest in not only preserving the records, but in searching out, arranging, and even transcribing documents of the long ago, which have given this writer much vital information, but which still hold items of valuable significance that could well be utilized by future researchers.

When the town of Westville was formed in 1829, the town officers were appointed by the Justices of the Peace then living in that part of the town of Constable; but thereafter they were elected annually. The Supervisors have been: Guy Meigs, Philemon Berry (1830), Goodrich Hazen, Alric Man, Henry G. Button, Buel H. Man (1840), Samuel Coggin, James Walker, Samuel Man, Richard E. Morey (1850), Ebenezer Man, William C. Boyd, Darius Hardy, Charles N. Johnson (1859-63), Joseph P. Hadley, Gilbert T. Clark, John L. Rowley (1869), Lauriston M. Berry, Albert C. Hadley, Floyd J. Hadley (1881-83), Robert Clark, Edward F. Rowley, John W. Rowley, B. S. Chapin, William H. Adams (1907-12), John Fallon, Herbert McQueen (1920), Henry Miller, George Chapman (1934), Fred Fallon, Frank Holden (1952), Howard Davis; many of these served several terms, but the date of their first term only is given. I am indebted to the present clerk, Bernard Fleury, for these records. Voting machines were bought by the town in 1934, at a cost of \$880. In recent years, the tax assessments have been sharply raised in Westville, and the town's assessment roll is now said to exceed those of either of the neighboring towns. The town board voted in 1958 to give the local fire department, which had been organized in 1955, the sum of \$9,000 toward the cost of a new fire truck, and also voted to erect a garage for the town cars. This stands on the Bangor road, south of Westville Centre, on a lot purchased from Paul Tuper.

The first supervisor elected in Bombay was Wilson Randall, who had previously been supervisor of Fort Covington before that town was divided. His successors have been: Amherst K. Williams (1835); John S. Eldredge, Elias Bowker, Elvin B. Smith, Amasa Townsend, Charles Russell, Jacob G. Reynolds (1849), George Russell,

Michael O'Keefe, Alfred Fulton (1855), Schuyler Button, Dennis McCarthy (1862), C. R. Reynolds, Gurdon S. Mills, L. Granville Whitney (1876); Calvin B. Gilchrist, Ernest G. Reynolds; Henry M. Bero (1887); Thomas A. Sears; Charles R. Matthews; Maurice W. Lantry (1904-12); John H. Kingston; J. J. McKenna; Martin F. Condon (1919); Clinton W. Russell; Timothy J. Cotter, Henry J. Rockwood (1941-54); Vincent Reardon; James Francey; Michael Lantry (1959). Many of these, besides Mr. Rockwood, served several terms. It will be noted that the office was quite evenly divided between the communities and the races; and the same is true of political parties.

Bombay has been especially unfortunate in the preservation of town records, the bulk of which were destroyed in several fires, culminating in the sweeping fire of 1921, which obliterated so many cherished old landmarks. While many suspect that the fire was incendiary, no motive of a public nature is alleged.

As far as available, records show no unusual action had been taken by the Bombay town board, except in the Civil War, as I shall tell in a later chapter.

In 1941, the Bombay Chamber of Commerce issued a plaque depicting the historic and industrial importance of Bombay. It shows a double circle, containing between the circles, the words "Bombay-Hogansburg-Agricultural-Historic-Industrial." Within the inside circle are shown: a flat basket, a moccasin, a milk can, and a wide structure representing a factory.

The village of Fort Covington was incorporated in 1890. The village board is elected biennially. Appropriations for such purposes as sidewalks, garbage collection, maintenance of water supply, street lighting, etc. are discussed. The matter of providing an adequate supply of good drinking water was long a disturbing issue. Formerly, most families had private wells, whose water was usually quite "hard." Some people used an artificial softener, which was sometimes objectionable. In 1935, an artesian well was sunk on Covington Hill, at a cost of \$37,000, which was paid for by a bond issue. The pump house is under the

The village gets its light from the Niagara-Mohawk Company at Malone, which bought the power rights which were started and developed in the 1890s by Patrick Keefe of Iroquois, Ontario, and conducted later by his son, William. Their plant was on the site of the once-flourishing Duncan Wright sawmill, the last of the many sawmills on the Big Salmon. Since the Malone company has taken over, the power here is no longer used, and the concrete dam is idle.

The village board consists of a mayor, four trustees, a village clerk and an attorney, who transacts the legal business. The executive positions are currently held by A. M. Cappiello, Mrs. Gladys McCaffrey and Robert B. Regan, respectively. Former incumbents have included James Dempsey, Hollis Merrick, George Higgins, Walter Herrick, E. O. Forbes, Ed Hollenbeck and Frank Cosgrove, who declined reelection as mayor after having served in that position for 25 years. The village is in an excellent financial condition at the present time, owing only \$7,000, and is retiring the last of 30-year bonds issued in 1930-32. The financial report for 1961, published in the SUN, showed the total estimated expenditure to be \$31,579.28, of which revenues on hand and accruable total \$14,803, leaving \$16,676.28 to be raised by tax.

Vital statistics of the Three Towns are quite ample and are very enlightening. They show fluctuations only to be explained by changes in natural resources, the effects of new inventions and ways of living, and the absence of any considerable industrial development. The Towns have always been, and are today, a rural area, and, as all observers testify, rural America is waging a losing fight to maintain itself numerically in the world of automation and atomic energy. Nevertheless, rural life possesses attractions which, to adults at least, often outweigh the apparent advantages of cities or suburbs. If those attractions are enjoyed, along with a sensible employment of modern facilities in communication and recreation, there is no reason why a country town or farming community should not always continue to be a place of happy homes and

happy people. There is scarcely a state in our union where there is not someone living who says of the Three Towns, "She is a small place, but there are those who love her!"

Population trends of the Three Towns, are shown by the figures of various censuses, as follows:

Year	Fort Covington	Westville	Bombay	Total Three Towns	St. Regis Reservation	Ft. Cov. Village
1820	879	in Constable	in Ft. Cov.			
1825	2136	"	"			
1830	2901	619	"	3520		
1835	1665	661	1357			
1840	2092	1028	1146	4266		
1845	2369					
1850	2641		1963			
1860	2757	1635	2440	6837		
1870			1488			
1875		1721				
1880			1644			
1890			1496			
1900	2043	1237	1489	3769	1253	
1910	2028	1121	1339	4488	1249	897
1915	2045	1128	1337	4510	1086	757
1920	1966	1028	1251	4245	1016	836
1925	1858	967	1240	4065	976	865
1930	1728	880	1216	3824	945	764
1940	1767	831	1140	3738	1262	813
1950	1764	877	1102	3743	1409	891
1960	1933	1290	1088	4411	1771	975

A study of the above figures and of the censuses on which they are based leads to many significant conclusions. First, there is an evident stability of population. The total today is almost exactly what it was fifty years ago. A good many of the pioneer families are still represented here, and their modern descendants are willing to make their homes here and to adapt the fruit of their ancestor's toil to comfortable life in a modern environment. For example, Mrs. Warren Mount, of Fort Covington Centre, made a detailed study of the Census of 1845 in Fort Covington, which brings out facts of significance. The town had 1156 male residents and 1213 females. There were only 366 people entitled to vote — of course, there was no woman suffrage — while there were 564 aliens not yet naturalized. Almost exactly one-half of the inhabitants were born in New York

State; 381 were born in New England — obviously of the older arrivals — and 797 were born in “Great Britain or her possessions”; these undoubtedly were mostly Irish immigrants, or French from Canada. There were 573 children between five and sixteen years of age. During 1844, there were 103 births and 36 deaths, and nineteen marriages. The occupations were reported as 453 farmers, 21 merchants, 36 “manufacturers” — probably mill owners — and 119 mechanics; chiefly carpenters and builders. Dairying was just getting started; “sheep outnumbered all other animals.” There were three woolen factories, whose product exceeded \$100,000 a year; there was only one other woolen mill in the county.

By contrast, the Census of 1940 showed the town “marking time,” as the *SUN* commented. During 1940, there were 34 births, 28 deaths and twelve marriages; the average death age was 64; fifteen of the deceased persons were over 70; nine over 80, two over 90; evidently, healthy for old people!

The figures of 1960 population by towns, quoted in U. S. Census Report PC (1), pp. 134-35, do not agree with the totals given in the same book, p. 147. I have been advised to quote the smaller figures. The median age is noticeably different for whites and Indians; for the former, 33.9 years for males; 36.7 for females: for Indians, 27.1 years for males, 29.7 for females. This reflects the large number of Indian children.

The state censuses taken in the middle of each decade furnish much helpful information. The Census of 1875 names many residents born in Ireland, ranging from Timothy Leary, 19 years old, to John Griffin, 82; included were John Keefe, 48, and his wife, Mary, 42; they had nine children from 20 years to four, all born in Franklin County. Alexander Sears, 70, was born in Greene County; his wife was born in England; they had seven children, including Thomas — later Hon. Thomas A. Sears.

This census reveals the large amount of butter made on the farms, and also the importance of starch-making. For Fort Covington, the Census of 1915 lists the ages and

occupations of many whom I have mentioned before, and many whom I have not: William and Lester Smallman "ran a moving picture show"; there were seven permanent lodgers in the Northern Hotel; there were nine Vincelettes, nine Ponds, and "Thirteen Bashaws living on the Malone road."

I have been privileged to examine the field book of H. K. Cross, copied in the admirable handwriting of his son, F. L. Cross, and listing the name and age of every one of the 1644 persons who lived in Bombay in June, 1880. The summary shows over 72% born in the state, as against a bare majority, 30 years earlier. The population was 319 less than in 1850 — a decline of over 16%. 256 could not read; 328 could not write; 411 attended school; there were 67 widows; the number of widowers is not mentioned! There were 201 farms, and 11 manufacturies. There were 6 deaf and dumb, 3 in one family. Details of deaths are carefully stated.

From the census figures, it is clear that the Three Towns reached their maximum population in 1860, and declined rapidly thereafter, until 1900; declined again after World War I and is now again on the upgrade.



Covered Bridge, South Bombay. Demolished in 1946

15

PARTY POLITICS

When the Three Towns were formed, the domestic political situation was quite confused. The Federalist Party had fallen into disfavor because of its opposition to the War of 1812, but, as long as a number of its former leaders lived, a lingering respect for them kept many voters from joining the rising Republican opposition. During the period 1815-28, the most powerful man in state politics was DeWitt Clinton, nephew of the long-time Federalist Governor George Clinton, and governor himself from 1817-23, and again from 1825-28, when he died in office. Many Republicans became cool toward him, suspecting him of underhand favoritism toward Federalists. The split encouraged the opposition, who, although seldom able to muster a majority in the county, succeeded in capturing some town and county offices. About the time of DeWitt Clinton's death, the former Federalists began to rally into a new party, which in 1832, held a national convention in Baltimore and called themselves the Whigs. The other side became known as Democrats. This line-up stood until the Civil War. It was disturbed, occasionally, by new parties rising temporarily, such as the Anti-Masons, Anti-Renters and the "Knownothing" Party; but these did not last, nor did they have permanent importance, here. From 1830 to 1860, the voters were either Whig or Democrat.

It was natural that the prominent business and professional men should also be prominent in the parties, and should often get political posts thereby. William Hogan was a staunch Democrat at all times, and it is quite probable that his influence had much to do with turning the Irish immigrants almost solidly to the Democrat Party — so much so that Seaver maintained that at some times it was dangerous to an Irishman's family or property to have it become known that he was not a Democrat. This, I am quite sure, was not the case in Fort Covington, where such well-known

Irishmen as James McKenna and George Donahue were active Republicans. Nevertheless, the great majority of the Irish have remained Democrats, and have often put Bombay into the Democrat column.

Besides Hogan, other leading Democrats were James B. Spencer, his son, James C., Benjamin Raymond, the Flanders brothers, Henry A. Paddock and William F. Creed.

Leading Whigs included Jabez Parkhurst, George B. R. Gove, Uriah Meeker, James Campbell, John S. Eldredge and Rufus R. Stephens of Hogansburg.

The Anti-Masonic furor of 1828-32 stirred the towns to considerable excitement, chiefly because of Rev. Nathaniel Colver's fiery preaching; but they do not seem to have made any lasting changes.

The presidential campaigns of 1840 and 1844, with their "Log Cabin" torchlight processions, strengthened the Whigs, temporarily, but with the unexpected defeat of their idol, Henry Clay, in the latter year, they began to lose hope; only the division of the Democrats into "Hunkers" and "Barnburners" gave the Whigs some hope.

During the 1840s, abolition of slavery became more and more a political issue. Knowing nothing of slavery at first hand, the people were slow to become excited over it, although it is probable that some escaped slaves were smuggled out of the country through Fort Covington and Westville. Jabez Parkhurst became an outspoken Abolitionist, and in later years, his son-in-law, George A. Cheney, recalled tales of his receiving slaves. As the years passed, anti-slavery sentiment grew, and, when the Republican party was formed in 1854, most of the former Whigs and some Democrats were ready to turn to it. The American Party, commonly called the "Knownothings," because they refused to answer questions about their anti-foreign attitude, fused with the new Republicans on a joint ticket in 1857 and again in 1858, and they were successful, electing, among others, Edgar S. Whitney, of Fort Covington, to be County Clerk. He ran as a "Knownothing." It became evident that, with the slavery issue in the nation approaching a crisis, there was no future for the Knownothings, and

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practically all of them became Republicans. In 1859, the entire Republican county ticket was elected by majorities ranging from 25 to 200, and Franklin County swung solidly into the Republican column, to remain there without a break for 75 years.

The Republican Party in Fort Covington was organized at a meeting held in 1854, at which seven men were its organizers, viz: Jabez Parkhurst, George B. R. Gove, Joel Lyman, Henry A. Paddock, Sleiman E. Blood, Malachi Barry, William Gillis. For a good many years, a number of these men continued to play leading roles in the party, and consequently in the town. Hiram Burns, a little later, attained the stature of a party "boss," and in 1878 was on the point of becoming the party nominee for Assemblyman, until his nomination was vetoed by William A. Wheeler — later Vice President — who at that time was recognized by the national leaders as the party authority and dispenser of patronage for all northern New York. This was a disappointment to Mr. Burns and his friends in the town, where he was held in the highest esteem. A little later, Allen S. Matthews took over the Republican leadership, and held it until his death in 1907. He himself went to the Assembly, and other townspeople, including Almerin Merrick and George Henry, obtained county offices.

The national campaign of 1860 produced much confusion and excitement. The Democrats had split sharply, the "regulars" nominating Breckinridge of Kentucky, while most of the northern Democrats supported Lincoln's long-time opponent, Douglas of Illinois. In Franklin County, both Democrat factions had electoral tickets, and the remnant of the Knownothings fused with the Douglas men on a county ticket. The GAZETTE, the Democrat county paper, refused to support Breckinridge, but in Bombay his was the only presidential name on the ballot, except Lincoln's. Marching clubs played a lively part, and huge crowds turned out. The result was that Lincoln carried the county with 1672 votes, and Breckinridge was second with 1008. All the Republican candidates for county offices won. The vote for President in the Three Towns was: Lincoln carried

Fort Covington, 256 to 180; Breckinridge carried Bombay, 189 to 161; Lincoln carried Westville, 134 to 122. Enmities arising out of this bitter fight created lifelong differences, and in some cases changed party affiliations permanently. Two years later, with many away in the army who would have voted Republican, the Democrats carried the state, and came within 100 votes of carrying the county. But, after the war ended the soldiers returned, the G.O.P. (Grand Old Party) assumed all credit for the return of peace, the payment of pensions, the building up of the West, and such prosperity as there was until the Panic of 1873.

Republican post-war leaders in Bombay included Jacob G. Reynolds, Thomas A. Sears and Charles A. Matthews.

In Westville, the Republicans were led by Dr. Lauriston Berry, Robert Clark, and Edward F. and John W. Rowley.

Meanwhile, the remnants of the Democratic Party, though hopelessly outnumbered, and in no position to gain recruits through patronage, or — except on rare occasions — any help from their state organization, grimly kept the faith and waited for brighter days. They took comfort in the title "The Unterrified"; they had their own glee clubs and bonfires, and, when victory at last crowned their colors nationally, the houses of Democrats blossomed with candles like a Christmas tree. Prominent among their leaders were Dr. William McFie, Chandler and Sid Ellsworth, James Dempsey, Larry Lynch, William J. Donovan and Stiles Stevens in Fort Covington. For a few years, they had the inspiring help of Matt C. Ransom, the handsome and eloquent young lawyer who had come to the town from Clinton County. The election of Grover Cleveland to his second term as president filled them with enthusiasm, but their hopes were dashed by the startling rise of the Free Silver movement, which, of course, made scant headway against the witchery of the "Full Dinner Pail" argument of the Republicans in the McKinley years.

There was one curious break in the procession of defeats. In the spring of 1894, the Republican town caucus unexpectedly named William G. Kelsey as its candidate for Supervisor. This gave mortal offense to Allen Matthews,

the local party leader, who was Kelsey's neighbor and business competitor. Enough voters were induced to scratch Kelsey's name on the Republican ballot so that the Democrat candidate, Garret W. Hart, was elected, becoming the first of his party to sit on the county board since Civil War days. It was an empty honor, since the Democrats had never more than two or three supervisors on the board at one time — usually from Bombay and Chateaugy — and the Fort returned to its G.O.P. allegiance at the next election.

In Westville, Democrats were even less numerous, being confined usually to McQueens and their workers, with a few votes from survivors of old Irish families near Trout River.

In Bombay, however, Democrats usually made a creditable showing, with Spillingeses, Lantrys, McKennas, Crokes and others filling town offices: and Ernest G. Reynolds was Democrat candidate for Assemblyman in 1882.

Some features of politics in early days deserve to be mentioned. The buying of votes, either by cash, liquor or promise of employment, such as on the town roads, was habitual, and many voters would not vote unless they were paid in advance. The majority party had an obvious advantage, which it did not hesitate to use. For many years, each party furnished its own ballots; and the discrepancies and irregularities arising from this can easily be seen. Ballot reform began to be agitated about 1890; and, little by little, the laws became stricter. But, while conditions were propitious, there is no reason to think that North Country politicians were a whit more scrupulous or fair than the Tammany practitioners they constantly denounced.

Beginning with Al Smith's administrations in the 1920s, and gaining momentum under the New Deal, the political fortunes of the Democrats showed marked improvement. The establishment of new Federal agencies, such as the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Farm Credit Administration gave help and encouragement to many young voters and to people in difficulties. Democrats got on government payrolls in increasing numbers. And then World War II caught the people's enthusiasm, and its excitement

and apparent success tied many to the party in power, as similar forces had helped Republicans in the '60s.

There was a noticeable growth in the Democrat vote in each of the towns. Herbert McQueen was elected Supervisor in Westville in 1942, and was re-elected. Other Democrats were elected to town offices there, including George Chapman in 1958. The younger element of French voters began to vote Democratic. Bernard Fleury and Frank Holden were chosen Town Clerk and Supervisor, respectively. In Fort Covington, Harold Lamay was elected Supervisor, and Floyd Brockmay won in 1958. Though the number of enrolled voters as of 1950 continued to be predominantly Republican — 400 to 307 in Fort Covington, 271 to 107 in Westville, but 225 to 240 in Bombay — the Democrats have in recent years secured firm control of the town offices, and they also prevailed in the presidential election of 1960. The latest results are:

1960 — President Kennedy carried Fort Covington by 510 to 313; a Democrat councilman was elected by 167 plurality.

1961 — the Fort Covington town offices were all won by Democrats, except Supervisor, for which Charles Finch won a 9-vote margin over Harold Lamay.

In Bombay, Michael Lantry, Democrat, was re-elected Supervisor over James R. Francey by 14 votes. Most of the other offices were won by Democrats.

In Westville, the Republicans captured the office of Supervisor and the other town offices, except Town Clerk and one Justice of the Peace. Watson Fleury is the new Supervisor.

In 1962 Fort Covington voted: Republican for Congressman, 315-310; State Senator, 322 to 290, and Sheriff, 369 to 267; Democrat for Governor, 323 to 302.

In Bombay, Republicans won for Senator, 183 to 181; Sheriff, 205 to 170; Democrats won for Governor, 191 to 178; for Congress, 192 to 180.

In Westville, all Republican candidates obtained majorities; Governor, 234 to 131; Senator 244 to 114; Congressman 233 to 132; and Sheriff 277 to 103.

16

OUR MILITARY RECORD

While the Three Towns were not directly connected with any of our government's wars except the War of 1812, they naturally were called on to furnish their share in men, money and morale to each conflict that has arisen. Hough's History, published in 1853, gives a list of the pensioners named in the Census of 1840, including Francis Clark of Fort Covington, aged 86; Asa Jackson of Bombay, 79, and Barnabas Berry of Westville, 82. This shows them to have been born in 1754, 1761, and 1758 respectively, and undoubtedly, they served in the Revolution, as did Henry Briggs. A printed document on a letterhead of the Hillside Rest Cemetery Association of Bombay records Asa Jackson's death, and credits him with five years and six months in the War of 1812, culminating in the Battle of Plattsburgh "ten years to a day previous to his death." Thomas Cross, who died in Bombay in 1843, is recorded as having "served ten years in the Revolutionary Army."

The Mexican War was not well received by the majority of our people, who looked upon it with mixed feelings of partisanship, complaining that its only beneficiaries seemed likely to be Southern slave owners. The only man of this area whose name I find mentioned as taking part in it was Benjamin Babcock of Fort Covington.

The Civil War, too, aroused partisan opposition, for the Democrats, who were numerous and influential here, had long been at odds with the Abolitionists and their argument was that the compromise advocated by Senator Douglas was a sensible plan for saving the Union and could be maintained indefinitely. The Abolitionists, on the other hand, staunchly maintained that slavery had to be abolished, by force if necessary, and were ready, in the meantime, to assist runaway slaves to escape.

When the new Republican administration was confronted by force in South Carolina, and Lincoln, who had

never been an Abolitionist, reluctantly decided to fight, many declared, disgustedly, "We told you so," and prophesied a long and disastrous struggle — in which they were correct. The leaders of both sides were vigorous and outspoken men, who "pulled no punches," and this led to positive action by both sides. Particularly, was this true of the Flanders brothers — Joseph and Francis — who had begun their career in Fort Covington and who had a host of admirers there, though they were at the time publishing their paper the GAZETTE in Malone. Joseph also published a paper of his own, the JEFFERSONIAN, for two years, and his editorials were probably the ablest that have ever been written in Franklin County. Both brothers defended the constitutionality of peaceful secession, which the southern states had tried; and they denounced President Lincoln for using force to stop it. For two years their papers were denied mailing privileges, and both brothers spent terms in the federal prison at Fort Lafayette. That, of course, did nothing to convince their followers, and it may have had considerable to do with deterring enlistments and making the draft necessary.

There was also strong opposition to the war by other elements. The large number of recent immigrants who had poured into the Towns during the previous twenty years were to some extent refugees from British impressment into the army and navy, and they had not expected to be called on to fight here. They had bought, or contracted to buy, farms, stock and equipment, and, while some of them had relatives who could carry on, others did not, and they faced the prospect of losing their homes if they went away. Few of them volunteered, and, when the draft came, a good many able-bodied men are said to have made a practice of absenting themselves and "visiting" relatives or friends in Canada until the search was over; they were, later on, often rebuked as "ske-daddle-ers"; but, while their tactics were not praised, they do not seem to have suffered permanently from them.

Lacking enough volunteers to meet their quota, the towns and, later on, the county, had to raise money to pay

bounties to hire substitutes for those whose names were drawn for service. The usual sum given as a bounty was \$300, although it is reported that some individuals paid as high as \$1,000 to a substitute, who might even come from Canada. In 1864, Fort Covington raised \$3420 by taxation, to be used for bounties, while the amount spent on roads that year was only \$250. Bombay voted, at a special town meeting on January 18, 1864, to raise \$4000, "to pay volunteers \$300 each, to fill up the quota of the said town under the last call of the President for 300,000 men; town bonds, to be paid for by tax . . . payable in three annual installments; that Alfred Fulton issue said bonds; that a committee of three — William H. Babcock, Daniel McCarthy and Parker Flanders — serve as a committee to procure volunteers." The rate of interest paid was 7%. Six bonds were issued payable in one year, four in two years, four in three years. They were bought by Franklin Mielotte (1), Gurdon S. Mills (2), "Frank Bishotel, Volunteer" (1), G. W. Kimball (4), John Connelly, Jr. (3), and John Connelly (3); in other words, those men put up the money as an investment, except Bishotel, who enlisted. Of the \$4,000, \$500 was unexpended, and in June following, another special town meeting, voted, 65 to 47, to pay the balance in two bonds "toward the relief of the four persons now or hereafter drafted."

Seaver's history — pages 58 and following — presents an overall picture of the share of Franklin County in the Civil War; but, even in his day (1918), it proved difficult to obtain anything like an accurate list of those who served, because "the town clerks were required in 1866 to prepare complete lists of those who had served in the army from their respective towns"; but "the town clerks' reports for Bangor, *Bombay*, Chateaugay, *Fort Covington* and *Westville* not having been located, the census figures are used." They show that the men served in the 16th, 60th, 98th, 106th and 142nd regiments of infantry, with considerable numbers in other commands, notably the 96th, 118th, the 14th Heavy Artillery, and some cavalry units. The larger

proportion of men from the Three Towns served in the 98th Regiment.

Hurd's History lists 168 names as "Fort Covington Soldiers in the Civil War," giving unit served with, dates of beginning and end of service, and place of discharge of most, with special notation of casualties. Omitting unnecessary details, the names follow:

Andrew Polo, Francis Vivlamore, George Tuper, James Basha, Chas. Sabin, Jr., Myron Brown ("killed in charge at Petersburg"), George Ouney, John Mullet ("killed at Drury's Bluff"), Albon J. Danforth, Franklin Mallett, Levi Brown, John Vivlamore, Myron C. Barber, Albert C. Danforth, Joseph Vivlamore, Peter Russo, John Clookey, Franklin Martin, Isaac Leroux, Sidney Viger, Alfred Dow, Rollin Wagner, Wm. DeGowin, Harry Davenport, Franklin Goodrich, Albert Fling, Sands Austin, Leonard Berry, Solon B. Chapin, Clinton W. Shipman, David Edgerly, Rodolphus Buel, Stephen F. Hammond, Samuel Burk, Cyril King, Lyndon Young, Stillman Griffin, Alfred C. Stiles, Albert W. Town, Henry Babcock, Marvin G. Merrick, David L. McMillan, Wm. E. Hyde ("artificer"), Albert C. Hadley ("artificer"), James A. Stockwell, Loreston Fellows, William Palmer, Nahem H. Burch, Davis Grange, Wm. C. Gleason, Samuel W. Gleason, Christopher Arell, Joseph Ferry, Adolphus Laroque, Alexander Blood (two enlistments), (musician), Joseph LeClair (wounded in two battles), John Vivlamore, Sr., Myron Ward, Albert B. Henry, Henry Colton, Wm. McKenna, Wm. Fleming, Charles Benson, Timothy Burns, Peter Lavigne, Albert LeClair, Sylomus Perry, Daniel Slattery, Chas. F. Smith, Geo. Viger, Daniel W. Blanchard (promoted to Corporal; killed at battle of Fair Oaks), Sidney Russell, Addison Olney, Daniel Brown, Wm. Brown (served under the name of Daniel Mulligan), Duncan Gillis ("promoted to artificer and to Corporal"), Frank Myers, Sergeant ("re-enlisted, wounded"), John McDonald ("wounded, discharged on account of disability"), Norman Bean ("wounded, taken prisoner"), Solon B. Broadwell, Isaac Smith (promoted to artificer, to corporal and to sergeant), Joseph Fay, Julius

Bean, Walter C. Williams, James McKenna (Sergeant, 12th Cavalry, wounded at Tarboro, N.C., discharged on account of disability), Edward Gower (twice wounded, re-enlisted), Archie Hollenbeck (2nd Lieut.), Geo. Lowe, Harvey Lewis, Chas. W. Crary (Captain), Amos S. Kimball (Captain), David Storm, Edward Haynes, Augustus Martin, Albert Briggs, Archie J. Stewart, Wm. Hollenbeck (Corporal), W. Foster Dow, Charles Gray, Dudley C. Spencer, Albert D. Henry, Gilbert A. Wright (Corporal, two enlistments), Hiram L. Briggs, Antoine Premo, Joseph Rouselle, John C. Dewey, Herbert W. Hitchcock (Corporal), John Dow, Antoine Walling, Robert Cox, Robert Fray, Joseph Jones, Joseph Labuff, Stephen Premo, John Vivlamore (two enlistments), Isaac Arell, Peter Bellair, Jesse Micue (sic), Daniel Bron (sic), Albert Billings, Chas. Williams, Thomas Mulverhill, Chas. E. Brooks, David McCuin, Oliver Labuff, John Labuff, Ransom Brown (taken prisoner, paroled, died at Newport News), John Christy, Isaac Foster, Collins Fraser, Lewis Conier, Wm. Bene (sic), Wm. Gouyett (two enlistments), J. St. Dennis, Michael Mulverhill, Alonzo Bullis, Henry St. Antonin (sic), Joseph Labell, Hiram Lewis, Joseph LeClair, John Creed, Joseph Premo, Jerry Gratton, Adolphus Larock (two enlistments), Thos. Austin, Patrick O'Ready, John Christian, Albert Watson, John Keenan, Andrew Summers, Alexander LeClair, Zelotus Blanchard, Rodney Briggs, Erastus Ransom, Danl Brown, Jr., Samuel French, Enos Sabin, Wm. Mitchell, Jas. M. Smith, Anthony Patterson, Benjamin Phillips. Chas. Perry, Frank Pele (sic).

Allowance should be made for misspellings, especially of those noted "sic," for possible repetitions of the same name, and for those — not many — whose data are not complete. There appear to have been thirteen recorded deaths in the service, viz:

Myron Brown, Harry Davenport, Clinton Shipman, Daniel W. Blanchard, Archie J. Stewart, W. Foster Dow, Charles Gray, Albert D. Henry, Cyril King, Antoine Walling, Ransom Brown, Isaac Foster, Michael Mulvihill.

Losses in battle were heavy. The 106th lost 350 killed and wounded; the 98th, 174; the 142nd, 154; the 16th, 48; and the 60th, 85 — not included are those reported missing. The battles most fatal to our boys were those of Fair Oaks, Petersburg, Chapin Farm and Drurys Bluff.

County Historian Horton has thus far identified 37 soldiers buried in Fort Covington cemeteries, quite a few of whom are not in the above list — having died later or from other wars. Mr. Horton comments that Wm. McKenna and Wm. Fleming — and possibly others — served in the 1st Frontier Cavalry, a unit formed to protect the Canada frontier. Levi Gleason served in the War with the 144th Infantry Regt. of Illinois.

Hurd's corresponding list of Westville men in the Civil War reads:

David H. Dustin, Calvin Brown, Spencer K. Wallace, L. Avery, Guy W. Hollister, John C. Rheinhart, Benjamin J. Daniel, Albert Claflin, David Jewitt, Charles Rogers, Joseph S. Gates, Moses Cummings, Wm. H. McLean ("died in Andersonville Prison"), George Avery, Levi J. Barton, Francis Fountain, Hugh McCaffrey, William Adams, Hial Elmore, Antoine Prenis (sic), Edgar S. Kelsey, Marshall W. Taylor, Charles Downer, Charles F. Cheney, George Cheney, Winfield S. Sherwin, Merrill T. Griffin, Patrick McGrath, S. Downer, Henry Fairchilds, Alonzo A. Rhodes (2nd Lieut.), Read Downer, Henry S. Dustin, Samuel Judd, George Waterman, B. H. Alvord, Elias Cheney, George B. Williams, and Marshall Burghes — 36 in all, of whom the deaths were:

John C. Rhinehart, Moses Cummings, Wm. H. McLean, Levi J. Barton, Hugh McCaffrey, Marshall W. Taylor, and Charles H. "Cheeney."

The list of soldiers for Bombay was destroyed before Hurd wrote, and have never been replaced, apparently. I regret that I can not reproduce the Bombay service roll, for I am certain that Bombay equalled her sister towns in her devotion to the national cause.

For many years it was the custom to hold Memorial Day services on May 30 of each year, at which the veterans were

honored, and the patriotic feelings of the later generations were stimulated by speech and song. At one such ceremony, held in Firemen's Hall in 1917, with Rev. J. H. Gardiner acting as chairman, George W. Connell calling the roll and Revs. Tonkin and Desjardins offering prayers, the following Civil War veterans were on the platform: Wash Smith, George Lowe, Louis Gratton (Westville), Michael Michaud (listed in the rolls as Myron Mitchell), Roderick Lacerte, and Marion P. Merrick. Two years later, with William J. Donovan as chairman, most of those veterans were present, and also Gilbert A. Wright, Stephen Barney and George Santamo. In 1925, only George Lowe, M. P. Merrick and Steve Barney survived.

From other sources I have the names of Peter Blair, William Brown, Albert Tower, James Moore, Moses and David Clary and John Moore (of South Bombay). Thomas Brayton was a prisoner of war, and died in Libby Prison.

The Spanish War of 1898 created only a ripple of excitement in our neighborhood, and, as far as I know, Dan Creighton was the only local man who saw service. The most remembered effect was the great popularity of such catchy "war songs" as "Goodbye, Dolly Gray," and "The Banks of the Wabash."

Coming now to the two World Wars — thus far — it is natural that our closeness to the Canadian Border and to Canadian radio and newspapers should have familiarized our people with the British side of the argument, and the strenuous propaganda heard continuously, together with the almost complete absence of Germans here, made the British cause popular; it even influenced some of our boys to enter the Canadian Army before the United States declared war. After the U. S. entered, there was no reluctance to respond to the call, and no opportunity, as there had once been, to evade service by crossing the Line. The roster of those from the Three Towns who served in the United States or the Allied forces is an impressive one.

An article in the SUN of March 13, 1941, headed "Honor Roll of 1918," lists 107 names from Fort Covington, as follows:

W. Bruce Gaudion, William A. Atchinson, Anderson Farlinger, Henry Mayhew, Ozias Mayhew, Leonard Farley, Joseph Rushlow, James Mayhew, William A. McDonald, Harold Gooch, Murray Gardner, Emory Chapin, Leslie W. Gleason, Francis Smith, George Bushey, William Hanna, Ernest L. Derouchie, Willard Cushman, Charles A. McMorrow, Dennis Denneen, Herman J. Keefe, Andrew S. McKenna, Henry E. Shields, Lloyd R. Lyons, Charles McCaffrey, Merton F. McNair, Henry Rushlow, Miss Myra Ellsworth, Robert Cartier, James Gratton, Fred Bashaw, Angus Martin, Charles T. Keefe, Harold Smythe, Tennyson H. Bombard, Edward Lemay, Ray Cotter, Douglas Mitchell, Fred G. Ghostlaw, Joseph Saumier, Earl Avery, Stuart L. Tyo, Harry Currie, Philip Fulton, Alfred Fulton, Karl Creighton, John Barney, Henry J. Derochie, Thomas L. Hamilton, Arthur Rushlow, Leroy Brooks, Francis Leger, Charles McCarthy, Harold H. Gaudion, William McCarthy, Gilbert Rushlow, Jr., Lester Campbell, John Harold Hanna, Percy J. Derouchie, Patrick J. McCarthy, Harold McCaffrey, Harold Rogers, Leon E. Fay, John H. Gardner, Jr., Walter Elliott, Charles Derochie, Francis W. McMorrow, John Quain, Leon McCaffrey, Charles D. Matteson, Charles R. Lowe, Wesley Miller, William Fleming, Miss Florence Rouselle, Miss Lillian Kelley, Nelson S. Lyon, William H. Russell, Daniel Turner, Ransom Campbell, Gordon Shoen, Lucien Vincelette, Carmen Grant, Fred Bodwin, William Barney, Edgar Taylor, John J. Hence, William McGibbon, Ernest Hart, Thomas Rowley, Jr., Earl Clark, Louis Fulton, Charles Lynch, Allan Ordway, James Dimond, Ernest F. Ashley, Kenneth Gardner, James F. Mulvana, Vincent Hutchins, George Shartrond, John A. Leclair, James Basha, Warren Taylor.

The World War I roll from Westville follows:

Sergeants: Alfred Brooks, Sherman Barber, R. F. Freeman.

Corporals: Herman Elliott, William H. Griffin.

Privates: Arthur Rowley, Allen Ordway, Warren Taylor, Edgar Taylor, Levi Russell, Vincent Hutchins, Walter Elliott, Harold Hanna, Henry Niles, Arthur Lamay, Thomas

Marshall, Charles Marshall, Harry Curry, Frank Bean, Leroy Brooks, George Clookey, George Payreang, Harry L. Wilson, Ambrose Reyome and Henry J. Deyor. Their names are inscribed on a monument, put up by the town at Westville Corners, and it is probable that some names of French extraction are misspelled.

The Hogansburg and South Bombay and Bombay servicemen in World War I, as reported by the Franklin County Veterans Service Agency were: Ernest Barney, Jerry Becknauld, Chester D. Bero, Hubert Bero, Lloyd Berry, Joseph H. Bezio, Charles Butler, William Butler, Napoleon S. Cartier, Roy Condon (entered the Navy before the war), John M. Cotter, Alphonse Daley of New Brunswick, Rev. James E. Duffy, chaplain, Walter J. Dumas, Clarence Dwyer (voluntary enlisted), Joseph Foley, Ernest E. Foy, George Foy, Archie Freego, Philip Fulton, Fred Ghostlaw, Charles H. Grow, Wilfred Jock, Leo Keenan (Navy, "although only 17 . . . was turned down . . . persisted . . . was finally accepted, is a man in stature"), Hubert H. Lantry, Maurice F. Lantry, Adolphus LaRock, Thomas P. McMullen, Albert McNeil, Henry T. Murray, John Murray, Clotus T. Murphy, Francis J. Murphy, Francis D. O'Brien (Navy), Charles B. Rockhill, Henry J. Rockwood, Willis Russell, Joseph Savage, Leo D. Scanlon, Dennis A. Scanlon, Henry E. Shields, Philip Smoke (St. Regis), Joseph Snyder, Clayton Yaddow, and twenty others "in the draft from the town of Bombay but . . . no other information can be had." Charles Butler died at Camp Upton of pneumonia; several others were wounded. Peter McDonald, of St. Regis, served in both World Wars.

The Fort Covington roster for World War II reads as follows in September, 1942, as reported in the SUN:

"Following is Fort Covington's Honor Roll, the names of the men in the armed forces: The majority are probably in training in camps in this country . . . two, Winston Armstrong and Francis Thebert, are missing:"

Rev. Gordon Addie, Thorben Allen, Earl Allen, Edward Amord, Duncan Anderson, Amos Arell, Winston Armstrong, Fred Armstrong, Pierce Armstrong, James Baxter,

Guy Bennor, Gerald Black, James Black, John Black, Archie Boisse, Wayne Brockway, Edward Brown, John Joseph Burditt, Alfred Bushey, William Bushey, Ernest Castaignier, Webster Charrette, Kenneth Charrette, Francis Chatland, George Cooney, Gibson Coyle, Carmen D'Amour, Lyndon Drake, Henry Dube, George Dumas, John Elliott, Stanley Farquhar, Ray Farquhar, Maurice Foisy, Eugene Fullum, Sylvio Gardner, Donald Garrow, Leon Khostlaw, Gould Hunter, George Hunter, Rev. C. B. Hutcherson, Wesley Jock, James LaBrake, Stanley LaBrake, Gabriel LaBrake, Pierre Lacombe, Ignatius Lacombe, Carlton Lacombe, Walter LaFountain, Samuel LaGrave, Neily LaMay, Peter Lamb, Stanley LaPage, Henry LaPage, Henry Larrabee, Herman Latreille, Ulric Lauzon, Ernest LeBlanc, John Lowe, Earl Mainville, Edward John Martin, Sherman Martin, Frs. Mainville, Harold R. McCabe, Patrick McCarthy, Jack McCarthy, Wayne Merrick, Marion Merrick, Luman Morey, Henry Murphy, Jack Ordway, Jr., Lucien Picard, Edward Poirier, John Rowley, Clarence Saumier, Frs. J. Slyman, Dr. Bruce T. Smith, Albert Smith, Augustus Smythe, Andrew Smythe, Roland Stoddard, Kenneth Stowell, Frs. Thebert, Gerald Vincelette, Willard John Webb, Maynard F. Williams, Jack Wilson.

A list of service men posted in the vestibule of St. Mary's Church contains these additional names, probably of those enrolled later:

Ray Allen, Norman Allen, John Baxter, Stewart Benard, Alvin Black, J. E. Bouchard, Albert Bouchard, William Bouchard, Herbert Bosse, Leonard Brown, James Burditt, Donald Burditt, C. E. Burnell, Edward Burnell, Arthur Caron, Elton Cappiello, R. Charette, James F. D'Amour, D. Desjardins, Sylvester Desjardins, R. Desjardins, C. Desjardins, Paul Durocher, Thomas Durocher, Lawrence Dumas, Edward Emard, Raymond Fullum, Rene Foisy, Vernon Gosselin, Howard Gosselin, Kenneth Gratton, Francis Gratton, J. Floyd Gratton, John J. Hence, Irvin Jacques, John Keefe, Kenneth Keefe, S. Labrecque, G. Labrecque, Francis Lacombe, Gerald Lacombe, John Lacombe, Herman Latreille, Henry R. LeBlanc, B. MacDonald, C. A. J.

Mayhew, Thomas Martin, C. Monique, Bert Poissant, G. Quenneville, Raymond Ranger, B. Rouselle, Anthony S. Smith, Allen Smith, Michael F. Smith, Millard St. Onge, Earl Toupin, Lester Toupin, Joseph Toupin, Joseph Turner, R. Vincellette, and L. L. Vincellette.

Casualties included Major Bruce Smith, who was killed in Belgium on September 19, 1944, while trying to rescue wounded men from a crashed airplane; Winston Armstrong of the Canadian Air Force, who was shot down over Essen, Germany, June 3, 1942, and is buried at Dusseldorf; and Francis Thebert, of whom the SUN of January 14, 1942, had said:

"Fort Covington's scrappiest soldier boy is in the Philippines with General McArthur's army . . . William Francis Thebert, son of Mrs. Margaret Thebert, came home from World War I covered with glory and loaded down with medals . . . On the wall in his mother's home hangs the certificate of the Croix de Guerre. A book kept by Mrs. Thebert records that Francis was awarded the U. S. Distinguished Service Cross issued to him on the 19th day of January, 1926, by Dwight F. Davis, the Secretary of War. . . . The brief account in the book reads: ' . . . the D.S.C. . . . for extraordinary heroism against . . . enemy . . . at St. Etienne-a-Arnes, France, Oct. 3-9, 1918 . . . entrusted with especially important messages because of his carefulness and reliability. . . .' He was only 18 when he enlisted for the other war, and he has been in the service all these years since."

After a period of two years since being reported missing in the Philippines, Thebert was officially announced as having died there in May, 1942. Pfc. James A. Smythe and Corporal Andrew Black were killed in June, 1944, during the invasion of France.

The native of the Three Towns who attained highest rank in World War II was Dr. John P. Denneen, of the Medical Corps. Dr. Denneen had been in practice in New York City. He served first in the Naval Reserve, and subsequently in the U. S. Navy, from which he was retired in 1957 as a Rear Admiral; he now lives in Florida. On the

occasion of his retirement, he received from the Secretary of the Navy an official letter of commendation, which recalls his "outstanding service to the Government of the United States as Staff Surgeon for Squadron 11 during operations in the Southwest Pacific from November 1943 to March, 1945." He served on the U.S.S. LEONARD WOOD, and was awarded the Legion of Merit with Combat V.

Red Cross drives were loyally supported, and the war effort drove most other news off the front page. The SUN featured a column, each week, entitled "With the Men in Service," in which local news was summed up for the boys to whom the paper was sent free; messages of encouragement, written by well-known citizens, were featured; and letters to the editor from boys on all the far-flung battlefronts, were faithfully printed. Gibson Coyle and Earl Allen created excitement by flying over the area before leaving on foreign assignments; and when, a few days later, Allen was shot down over Germany, there was great concern until he was reported unharmed.

Westville's World War II contingent is reported as:

Those who lost their lives: Thomas Emerson Davis, Douglas C. Fleury, Harold Premo, Roy W. Reynolds, Paul C. Sullivan.

Other names recorded: Edward; E. Douglas; Everett C.; Glendon C.; Leslie T. Armstrong; Allen, Edward; Erwin; Sheldon; Horace; Howard; Orin; Kenneth; Roger; Wesley; Wayne; Hubert; and Eldred Avery; John Beaudette, Fred Blair, Daniel and Edmund Brunell, Floyd, Douglas and John Brownell, George Cooney, L. Cartier, E. Cunningham; Kenneth, Ransom and L. B. Dustin, Herman Elliott, A. Fish, W. J. Fallon, Merton Ferris, Michael Finea, R. J. Fleury, Edward Garland, Lawrence Gero, Albert Gordon, H. Griffin; Charles, Erwin F., J. F. and H. Gratton; Bernard Jones, Arthur and Howard LaBrake; E. J., H. A., L. E., P. L., LaRuer, D. and K., LeMay, M. Langlois, V. Lauzon, Arthur McGibbon, Walter Mason, Henry Murphy, John Patton, L. and R. Plante, Almon and A. Premo, James and Herbert Rhoades, Harry M. Riding; Raymond, Robert and K. Robinson; Kermit Rockhill, Miss Jean Rogers, Mil-

lard and Lester Santann, Fras. and Gerald Savoir, Vincent Southworth; John, Robert, Oscar and B. Stark; Arthur Stone, J. Turner, Clifton Willis, Harry and James Wilson, Robert, Roy, J. D. and L. A. Wilson, Grant and David Wright.

I have not obtained a report on Bombay's World War II contingent, which was quite on a par with her sister towns.

Bombay casualties which produced a profound effect all over the north country were the war deaths of two sons of Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Cross of the well-known family whom I have often cited. The boys, 22 and 24, were killed within a few months of each other — one in the Southwest Pacific, the other in North Africa. Staff Sergeant Daniel had been in the Air Force since just after his graduation from Bombay High School in 1939, and was serving at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. His older brother, 1st Lt. William H., was killed in Tunisia on April 27, 1943. Impressive memorial services were conducted at Bombay Methodist Church, and the Purple Heart and Silver Star awards, presented posthumously, were accepted by the parents.



Dam and Power House, Fort Covington Village

17

TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION

The pioneer settlers of the Three Towns arrived on foot, picking their way arduously through the forest, following where possible whatever faint trails had been made by the first surveyors or by the Indians. In many places they were turned aside by rocks or rivers. The only domestic animals that could make any headway were the sturdy oxen, of which each settler aimed to possess one, or, if possible, two — a “yoke.” The oxen were cared for as members of the family, and were fairly common here until the end of the century; but today there are many of our younger people who would scarcely recognize an ox if they should see one.

The rivers carried much more water than they do today, and were sometimes employed to carry heavy freight on crude rafts; but there is no evidence to show that they furnished help in the settlement of the country. The only streams that could transport sizeable boats were the Big Salmon and the St. Regis. Later, steamboats from the St. Lawrence made regular trips up to Dundee and Fort Covington, where there were wharves near the site of the present U. S. Custom-house; and boats also came to Hogansburg at one time. The St. Lawrence River was, of course, the great highway, and was regularly used by a long succession of steamers, many of them famous in song and story. For an adequate account of these historic boats, nearly all of which were Canadian-owned and operated, I refer my readers to the pages of Robert J. Fraser’s “As Others See Us,” which does them full justice.

The freight trade to Montreal, in the early days, was conducted, first by *batteaux* — flat-bottomed craft, described by Thoreau as “a sort of mongrel between the canoe and the boat — a fur-trader’s boat —” and later by “Durham boats,” which were large barges, which might accommodate up to 70 tons of freight. Along each side of the Durham boat was a broad plank with cleats, on which the crew — eight men

in all — stood to pole the boat. A large sail was used in deep water, oars were relied on in the rapids. Serious accidents often occurred in bad weather, and the boats were often overcrowded with immigrants — sometimes as many as 200 were crowded into a single boat; these conditions prevailed for at least a quarter of a century.

Captain James C. Sawyer, of Fort Covington, who lived in the little house west of the old Academy grounds on Chateaugay Street, is stated to have been the first man to pilot a passenger boat through the dangerous Long Sault rapids, which he did in 1849. This claim has been disputed by Robert Sellars and others, on behalf of Canadian claimants. Once accomplished, the feat became a precedent, and travel to Montreal by boat became commonplace, and afforded the easiest way of obtaining many articles of convenience and even of luxury that the settlers could not produce for themselves. St. Regis Indians with their stoicism and high sense of balance, made excellent pilots; the most famous of these was “Big John” Lewis.

I have previously referred to the boats owned in the 1850s by William Hogle, the first “industrialist” in the Three Towns; and I told how the loss of his boats contributed to his downfall. He really never had a successor in that line.

In August, 1944, the Montreal papers reported that a 10,000-ton freighter named “Fort Covington” was launched there at the United shipyards. Who was responsible for her name, and what became of her, subsequently, I have been unable to learn.

The boats most closely connected with our neighborhood were the Algona, the Star, the Fessian, the Granada, and the Princess Louise. The Algona was a commodious boat owned by a man named Clines and was used to carry excursions, such as will be described in a later chapter.

The Granada and the Princess Louise were owned by Captain Alex Smallman and his nephew, Captain James B. McMillan. In an advertisement in the SUN of June 28, 1894, it is stated that the Princess Louise “came off the dry dock, a few weeks ago, after a thorough overhauling, in

prime condition for the season's business . . . under charge of Capt. Jas. B. McMillan, her old-time experienced and courteous commander." The death of Capt. Smallman in 1903, and the competition of the automobile and power boats put an end to the business of passenger steamers. The once-popular boats lay at anchor in the Cornwall canal, until they rotted away. Capt. McMillan, who had a license to operate on the Great Lakes — but never used it — moved to Minneapolis, where he died in 1952.

Returning now to the roads of the Three Towns, we find that they took a major share of the attention, much of the time, and plenty of money — for those days — from the inhabitants, all through the years. The present state road — Route 37 — from Malone through Westville to Hogansburg and Massena follows in the main the first road surveyed in pioneer days, except that the original road kept to the bank of the Big Salmon, east of French Mills. The Drum Street road — named from the pioneer, John Drum — is the same as the road by which the British army marched in 1813.

In fact, nearly all the roads listed on our maps were in use a century ago, and many of them still bear the names of families prominent in those days, but possibly not there today. In Bombay, the Census of 1915 classified the people as living on roads bearing the following names; North, Fort Covington, Farrell, Helena, Hogansburg, Cold Spring, Lantry, Russell, Frye's Corners, Moira, Kibbe, Scanlon, Broad, St. Regis, State and Church; a little study of the map will readily determine where each road was.

In Fort Covington, the roads built by the settlers were the same as the ones in use today, except for slight adjustments made when the state or county took over construction and maintenance of a few roads. The names popularly given them were, beginning at the north: Drum Street, Hogansburg, Dog Hollow, Bombay, Deer River, Shannon, Mary Reilly, Holden, Malone (or Creighton Street), McQueen, Avery, Frye's Corners, Moira, Donovan and Jock.

In Westville were continuations of several of the above-named roads, also Briggs Street, Learment, Sand Street, Trout River, Hughes, Bangor.

In 1826, the Field Book of Roads, still preserved in the Fort Covington town clerk's office, shows 24 districts in what is now Fort Covington and Bombay. There were three commissioners of highways — William Hogan, Jno. Wallace and Rufus Tavenier. Each of the 24 districts had its "pathmaster" — i.e., a citizen designated to oversee the work done on the space of road, not too long, of which he had charge. Among the pathmasters named we meet Congdon, Sullivan, Ellsworth, Gove, Cushman, Davis, Sabin, Sanborn and Frye — leading citizens whom we met before. This pathmaster system continued to be used for the rest of the century in all these towns, and probably no more farcical procedure could have been followed, as far as improving the roads went. It operated something like this: On a mild day, in late Spring or in midsummer, a day when the crops didn't need attention, all the farmers in the "destrict" were summoned to attend the pathmaster, each man bringing his horse, or a team, if he had a long stretch of land bordering the road, and certain tools agreed on. The work consisted of plowing out the ditches on either side of the road, throwing the dirt and rocks up onto the road, possibly breaking up some of the biggest rocks, and finally smoothing down the "improvement" by drawing over it a stone-boat or a harrow. This done, the jovial farmers, having eaten a leisurely lunch, well moistened with boiled cider or something stronger, would happily return to their homes, their road taxes paid for another year! A couple of weeks later, a heavy two-day rainfall would wash the "improvements" back into the ditch. It was work like this that left the streets even on the outskirts of the village so impassible that, as late as 1890, a certain small boy, bringing a five-cent quart of milk from his home near the old cemetery to Peggy Blanchard's home near the Mears place, would be obliged to walk on the rail fences most of the way.

The first roads made were of the famous "corduroy" type, which means that they had good-sized logs laid down cross-wise and covered with earth, brush and broken stone. The logs, often of the best hardwood, made a foundation which would last for years. In the course of road repairing,

or other work, such logs have often been excavated which had seen many years service and were still sound. Riding along such a road in a springless wagon of the early days could hardly qualify as a pleasure trip.

The Bridge Report of 1826 states that the town of Fort Covington, then extending to the Helena town line, paid out \$300 toward the bridge at Hogansburg, \$30.55 toward a bridge on the Moira road, and \$20 toward a bridge between Hogansburg and St. Regis. From that time on, the building and repair of bridges was a never-ending activity of the towns. Early bridges were all of wood, and the "freshets" of Spring frequently washed some away. An early disaster in Fort Covington was the drowning of Levi Gleason in 1814, caused by his ignorance of the fact that there was no bridge on Center Street then; he had only recently come to live here, and had started for home on foot, after dark, guided only by the inevitable lantern; the sad accident shocked the community, and hastened the erection of more bridges. In the early 1890s, there were some 26 bridges in the town.

In Westville, Coggin's bridge near Westville Corners and the bridge in Westville Centre were very important and much used. The latter bridge was at the Forge, and was approached by a descent on both sides, which made access to it hazardous in icy weather. The first iron bridge in Westville was installed here in 1883, under the supervision of Amos Hoadley, overseer of highways. When the state road was relocated and built in 1933-34, the dangerous hill was bypassed.

The town of Bombay had two covered bridges of the type which arouses such enthusiasm among antiquarians of today, who are making strenuous efforts to have the few that remain in our eastern states preserved as historical monuments. The larger covered bridge was over the St. Regis River at Hogansburg. The other was at South Bombay, where it crossed the Little Salmon. Both bridges were in actual use until a few years ago, and will long be remembered by many people now living.

There may have been other covered bridges in the Three Towns, but these were gradually replaced by steel truss bridges, which rendered excellent service. Their weakness lay in the tie-rods which suspended them from external supports, such as posts or trees; these rods were often dislodged when hit by some heavy vehicle, such as a truck. One of the best-known of these bridges was the one that spanned the Little Salmon near the present Catholic cemetery in Fort Covington village. This was called the Malachi Barry bridge, since it was near Mr. Barry's home, now owned by Roger Brewer. That bridge was built in 1837, when it cost the town \$373 to build. It served its purpose well for 85 years, but had to be replaced in 1923, after it had collapsed on being struck in the middle of its north side by a car out of control. The bridge which replaced it was a plate girder structure 85 feet long and 20 feet wide; the entire cost, including abutments, was \$6,500 at that time, which would be considered cheap today.

The improvement of highways within Franklin County, involving state and federal aid, did not begin until about 1907, although other parts of the state had taken advantage earlier than that of proceeds of state bond issues for that purpose. In fact, our county board of supervisors had rejected propositions to ask the state for help. But, eventually, help was obtained, and state roads started, of which several are in the Three Towns. The official highway map of Franklin County, published in 1955, shows two state highways passing through the Three Towns — No. 37 from Malone to Massena via Fort Covington, and No. 95, from South Bombay to Bombay, thence west and north, joining Route 37 near the Indian Reservation. County highways include the one north from Bombay for a half-mile, thence branching west to Route 95 and northeast to Route 37; from Bombay east to Coggins bridge; from Fort Covington to Cook's Corners; from Cook's corners to South Bombay, with a branch running south to Moira; from Westville Centre east to Constable — from Westville Centre south to the Bangor line; from Westville Corners east to Constable and the Canada line. Drum St. is to be rebuilt, having been taken over

by the county. The other roads are town roads. The mileage of roads at this time is as follows: Bombay: 10.84 miles of state roads; 13.30, county; 36.15, town. Fort Covington: 6.99, 21.82 and 30.48 respectively; Westville: 7.90, 17.46 and 42.25, respectively; — or about 200 miles of roads in all.

The roads built with help from the state were to be maintained chiefly by the state, each town providing no more than \$50 per year per mile toward the upkeep of the state roads lying within its boundaries. The results were so gratifying that in 1910 the county issued bonds to the amount of a half-million dollars toward the building of county roads located equitably throughout the county. The average cost per mile was between \$3,000 and \$4,000, whereas the state roads cost about four times that. The county roads are largely gravelled, while the state roads are macadam. Latter-day costs, of course, are much higher. In 1940, the county road from Fitzpatrick's Corners in Bangor to Bombay via Cook's Corners and Fort Covington Centre was rebuilt; "it is estimated to be thirteen miles in length, and will include the reconstruction of seven bridges, many in Fort Covington; the cost . . . in the neighborhood of \$170,000 . . . the new road will be sixteen feet wide."

The opening in 1831 of the first steam railroad in the state — from Albany to Schenectady — started a fever of ambition to secure the new means of quick travel, and northern New York joined in, enthusiastically. Citizens of Malone formed a committee to promote the building of a railroad from Plattsburgh to Ogdensburg, and in 1837, David L. Seymour, of Fort Covington, was added to the committee. Progress was slow, partly because of the unwillingness of local businessmen to risk their capital, and the bickering among the rural villages, each trying to get a favorable location. Eventually, the line was finished as far as Chateaugay by June 1, 1850, and the first passenger train into Malone arrived there the following September. The line was extended west through Bangor and Moira, and this, although not what the people of the Three Towns had hoped for, was a great boon to our farmers, and was formerly

a convenience to passengers also. That road, long called the Ogdensburg and Lake Champlain, and more recently, the Rutland, is still in existence as a freight line.

Right after the Civil War, the people of Fort Covington and Bombay started a lively campaign to get the Grand Trunk Railroad of Canada to extend its line from Huntingdon to Massena. The town of Fort Covington offered to bond itself for \$75,000, and Bombay offered \$50,000. The offer was not accepted; nevertheless it was renewed in 1873. Finally, in 1882, work was actually started, and the railroad came to Fort Covington in 1883; it was continued on to Massena four years later. The SUN of January 5, 1888, gives a cheerful account of a special party who made the first trip over the new road to its temporary terminus at Earl's Creek, near Massena, as guests of Judge Foster, president of the road, in his private coach. The local people who shared in the festivities included: Dr. William Gillis, treasurer of the railroad company, and Mrs. Gillis; Dr. and Mrs. Macfie; Collector and Mrs. A. S. Creighton; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Congdon; Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Russell; J. Y. Cameron; and A. S. Matthews (directors of the company); D. E. Denneen "and young son;" Peter Gardiner; T. W. Creed; Mattie Kimball; and L. A. Valley, contractor. Much of the credit for the completion of the road should go to Judge Foster.

The road was installed without calling on the towns for their proffered bond issue; all they had to provide was the right of way.

For more than 50 years after the securing of this rail connection, the two villages enjoyed the advantage of easy access to Montreal and Ottawa in one direction, and to Syracuse, Utica and New York in the other. The railroad also brought in many families employed on it or because of it who became outstanding in our social and civic life; I would mention the Halls, Richardsons, Gaudions, Brannens and Napoleon Failles in Fort Covington.

As a business proposition, the Grand Trunk, as we always called it, showed a profitable return, at first, but with the introduction and steady improvement of the automobile,

its patronage and prosperity declined. Despite strenuous efforts by local authorities to retain the service, passenger coaches were discontinued in 1954.

Ernest G. Reynolds, in connection with the Central Vermont Railroad, completed a railroad from Moira to Bombay in 1889. While this road was very useful to the people in that area, it could not attract enough business to show a profit; also, a project of extending it north to Hogansburg never materialized. Thomas A. Sears, who was at first a partner in it, sold out to Mr. Reynolds. The New York and Ottawa Railroad offered to buy the line, paying for it in bonds, but he insisted on cash. The deal fell through, as did a plan to sell it to the Grand Trunk. The N.Y.&O. built its line further west — through Helena. The Reynolds Road discontinued operation in 1897, and a couple of years later its tracks were pulled up and sold as scrap.

The automobile age arrived in the Three Towns during the second decade of the 20th Century. A man named Melius, who came here in charge of construction work on roads, and who made his headquarters at the Northern Hotel, drove a car — quite a feat on the roads of that day — and was the center of attention as he guided the ponderous vehicle — it was probably a Pierce-Arrow — around the village streets, to the terror of the rearing horses tied at the hitching posts. This may have been the first car in the village; but which citizen owned the first one I can not say. Alfred Gardiner is said to have come “home” from New York in a “Thomas Flyer.”

In Westville, John Benn, who had gone “down East” some years before and had prospered, returned, sometime before World War I, driving a car, said to be the first domiciled in that town.

In the 1915 Census returns, Charles Lowe of Fort Covington listed his occupation as “chauffeur” — the first recorded. And John Fallon bought the first motor tractor in the town of Westville — that was in 1916.

In all three towns, the demand for automobiles grew fast. Frederick J. Seaver lamented it as a craze, and commented in amazement how times and people’s dispositions

had changed in a generation when men would mortgage their homes to "raise the money, when ownership of a car entails constant expense for upkeep, and is also an ever-present temptation to other expenditure." As Mr. Seaver dubiously suspected, there would be no turning back, and at the present time (1962), the number of automobiles licensed in the Three Towns is almost equal to the number of families.

Aviation has not yet become a live issue here, but it would seem probable that some moderately-priced machine borne by air may soon enter the local scene. Several young men connected with the Three Towns received pilot training just before and during World War II, and a few followed aviation professionally in other areas. Probably the best-known aviator was Gibson Coyle, son of the former Agnes Taillon, of Dundee. Gibson graduated at Fort Covington High School. He became a 1st Lieutenant in the U. S. Air Corps, and on several occasions he directed his course so as to pass over his old home town, to give his mother and old friends a sight of the local boy in action. Mr. Coyle remained in aviation until 1961, when he retired.



Fort Covington Academy 1876-1958

18

THE DISTRICT SCHOOLS

The early Yankee settlers came mostly from New England communities which had common schools supported by taxation, and they had great respect for at least a primary education, which indeed was all they could afford. They lost no time in taking advantage of the state laws prescribing the division of the towns into school districts. Fort Covington and Constable, at the time of their separation, were divided into 13 districts, and upon the erection of Westville and Bombay, the districts were re-numbered; the numbers hereafter used in this chapter are those used about 1940, but which had been in use for many years. For the interesting specific details herein presented, I am indebted to Mr. Clifford M. Berry, of North Bangor, who was for years district superintendent of the Third School District of Franklin County. Mr. Berry caused an historical account to be prepared of each district as it existed before consolidation in 1954. This, does not include the town of Bombay, concerning which I can not, therefore, be as exact; but I have obtained from older residents, old minute-books, letters and newspapers much information which I feel sure gives us a competent account of our past educational story, which clearly was a subject second to none in the hearts of our people.

Even before the schools were started, there were cases of private teachers working in the area, and there was always demand for home instruction for children of the more prosperous families. Rev. Mr. Crosby had such a school in the upper floor of the town house in Fort Covington in 1825.

Until such time as a school could be built, school sessions were held in whatever quarters could be obtained; e.g. William Reed relates that "the previous winter (1823-24) the school was kept in a log barn on the farm of Jake Travis, a mile west of the corners (Bombay)." The term was either three or four months, as voted by the patrons. The teacher

was paid out of the money received from the state, stretching it as far as it would go; whatever more was necessary must be paid by the parents, and assessed according to the number of pupils sent by each. Attendance was not compulsory, and was limited by the parents' ability to pay. District No. 2, later the village of Fort Covington, reported on March 6, 1825, that it had received \$28.70 from the Commissioner of State Common Schools; that the number of children between five and fifteen years was 80, of whom 65 were in attendance. School District No. 13 had only 21 children attending at that time.

The first schools — built, of course, by the residents — were log structures. But, as soon as practicable, they were replaced by frame, brick or stone buildings — the last-named the most permanent. The school consisted of one large room, with a platform and chair for the teacher at one end and benches on which the pupils sat according to size distributed around the room, benches fastened to the floor, or — for the largest pupils — in the rear, nailed to the wall. The school was heated by a large box stove in the center of the room, fed with chunks or logs of wood. The storing of the wood necessitated a wood-shed adjoining the school. The toilet was in a separate building outside. A few hooks for clothes, a home-made blackboard, a broom and a water pail completed the necessary equipment. As time went on, the people showed a commendable spirit of improving the schools and their equipment. By the time when the district schools were discontinued, most of them were quite modernized, with comfortable seats and desks, sanitary indoor toilets, electric lights, etc. It is a pity one or more of these historic buildings was not preserved in toto as visible evidence of the storied past.

The first teachers in the country schools were men, usually with modest educational preparation, but of sturdy physique, which was frequently needed to cope with certain neighborhood bullies. These were sometimes grown men, who, having nothing profitable to do during the winter months, enjoyed going to school, not to learn, but to annoy the teacher, sometimes going so far as to throw him through

the window. In the life of William Kinsella, the tale is told of his being confronted with such a situation in a country school, and how he triumphed over the bullies and some parents as well. One of the most noted of our early schoolmasters was Sands Austin, who was a Civil War veteran. It is said that, on his first day in a certain school where his predecessor had had trouble, Austin opened proceedings by walking to the rear of the room, chalking a spot on the wall a little above the heads of the largest pupils; then, returning to his desk, whipping out his service revolver and putting a hole with his first shot in the center of his target! On another occasion, he was said to have become exasperated to the point of forcing a disorderly boy into the lighted stove! Discipline was undoubtedly severe in the earliest days, and much is heard of the "blue beech" and the milder ferule, reserved for punishing the hands. Years passed, and by the end of the century, corporal punishment was rare, and the teachers were mostly women.

The first women teachers met with considerable suspicion. Minutes of the year 1844 in District 4, Fort Covington, record that instead of three months of school taught by a man, there should be eight months taught by a woman, subject to dismissal "if a majority of the district is not satisfied." The female teacher was to be paid one dollar a week, and "required to board among the scholars."

How to get the children to school was an obligation of each family, usually solved by having the children walk, and distances of two miles or more were not uncommon. The children carried their own lunches, and this gave much opportunity for "swapping" and perhaps learning comparative values. For a good many years, the custom of the teacher's "boarding round" was prevalent; and was taken into account in fixing the teacher's salary. A young woman from one of the Fort's pioneer Scotch families was allowed 75 cents a week for her board, and, as she was a buxom lady of excellent appetite, it was laughingly commented that the district lost money on her! Later on, after the county was divided into school superintendencies, a candidate for teaching had to take an examination, usually written, to test his

or her knowledge of subject matter; and this was usually supplemented by an oral interview. The superintendent, if satisfied, would issue a "third grade certificate," good for one year; and with successful experience, this would be replaced by a second-grade, and, eventually, by a first-grade permanent certificate. It is recorded of Dorcas Stafford, who taught the McQueen School in 1872-73 — where she met her future husband, Ambrose Cushman — that she "received her teaching certificate as the result of an interview with the Commissioner of Common Schools."

Superintendents who have overseen our schools over the years include: D. D. Dewey, William Gillis, Lauriston M. Berry, William G. Cushman, Willard E. Hyde, John S. Bizel, Fredus Wilcox and Clifford M. Berry.

As to the main purpose of these schools — the content and quality of the instruction they provided — it was undoubtedly meager, judging by our standards, but it is hardly fair to judge by our standards. Nothing but essentials was attempted in most cases; and, if the "scholars" were able, on leaving school, to read the newspapers with fair ease, to read and write simple business documents, such as notes and deeds, correctly, and to compute simple accounts such as store bills, it was generally agreed that their time had been well spent. Whatever additional knowledge could be imparted or talent aroused — such as drawing or singing — was the gift of some unusual or enthusiastic teacher, for which he or she received nothing but the lasting gratitude of a pupil who might trace back to that teacher a turning point in his life; all this applies as well to teachers in the higher grades.

It was customary to go through Webster's Speller in which the words were grouped from the simplest in the front to the most difficult in the back, and great stress was laid on accurate pronunciation rather than on the meanings of words. The English Reader, which featured poetry in the second half, was thoroughly read and many poems were committed to memory, to the later enjoyment of the readers. I can not say to what extent the famous McGuffey Readers were used here. In the 1880s, the Swinton series, extending to the Sixth Reader, was in use, and it made many pupils

familiar with substantial parts of English classics, both poetry and prose. Other books mentioned as textbooks were Comstock's Philosophy, Smith and Wells' Grammar, Adams' Arithmetic, — Written and Mental —, Mons' Geography and Atlas, Porter's Rhetorical Readers, Wild's Grammar and Sander's Readers, at an early date.

Most, if not all, of the districts accumulated libraries, and a citizen of the district was designated as librarian. When William Qua was elected librarian of Fort Covington district 4 — west of the village — in 1839, he was commissioned to go to Malone with twenty dollars with which to buy a book case and 50 volumes of books. In 1853, the same district appropriated \$2.89, "all of which was spent for a Webster's dictionary." In the Drum Street district, the library was kept at the Gleason home, later owned by Thomas Smythe; part of that library is now in the possession of Levi Smythe. Most of the books were on American or Ancient History; among them were: "Writings of Benjamin Franklin," "Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence," "The Arabian Nights," and "Life and Actions of Alexander the Great." When I was a pupil in District 1 school, seventy years ago, the library was kept in the bell-tower, and pupils could draw out books after school. As I was an omnivorous reader, and not destructive, I got permission to browse through the volumes by myself, and I spent hours there, to the detriment of my eyes. I remember devouring a series of tiny little books with minute print, which described remote countries like Dahomey, Zanzibar, Patagonia and Sumatra, which now have entirely different names. I believe the volumes in the district libraries were eventually given to private families, whoever would seem most likely to use them; and doubtless many of them are still in existence, after a long and honorable career.

The country schools were of course a meeting ground for the boys and girls of the neighborhood, who had plenty of fun before and after school, although it was not formally supervised, as today. Ball games, tag, snowball fights flourished. Some locations had special advantages; e. g. in the Deer River Schoolyard, the center of play and of relaxation

in fine weather, was a huge smooth boulder, half buried in the ground, which has been known to generations as the Pompy Stone.

The country school districts were perfect examples of early American democracy in action. Taxes, policies, improvements, sometimes personalities were argued and decided at the annual school meeting, or at a special meeting for an emergency. The minutes of those meetings are a fertile source of information when they are available, and from some that I have examined, I quote the following:

"District 6, Fort Covington: Annual meeting, Oct. 7, 1845; Henry Longley, Moderator; Ralph Ellsworth, Librarian; Allen Ellsworth, Wood Surveyor. Voted that the wood shall be got on the schollers, $\frac{1}{4}$ cord to the scholler. Public money shall be divided, $\frac{5}{8}$ to the winter, $\frac{3}{8}$ to the summer (term); \$3 for a blackboard, to be built by Moses Bean and Chandler Ellsworth." Thomas Parker was one of the trustees.

"Annual meeting, Oct. 1846. Public money to buy a globe and orrery."

"Annual meeting, Oct. 7, 1879. Thos. Parker, chairman; J. Blood, Clerk; F. B. Summerfield, Trustee; Bub DeGowin, Collector; Ralph Henry, Librarian. Voted that two cords of hemlock be furnished by P. Donovan for \$2.70, two cords elm and soft by R. N. Cushman for \$3.50; four cords beech, birch and maple by F. B. Summerfield for \$7.92; sawed and put into shed for twenty cents per cord by R. N. Cushman."

"Expenditure of the district, 1901 — \$215.75, of which \$200 were teachers' wages; received from State, \$104.62."

The above entries are copied from a memorandum book kept for over 50 years by Ralph Henry, whose daughter Gladys closed a long and happy teaching career in 1960, when she retired from the public schools of Portchester and was honored by a rousing farewell party. Others from the Three Towns who followed teaching with distinction, downstate, include Faith Avery at Catskill, Florence Anderson at Yaphank, Helen Condon at Cazenovia, Edgar Reardon at Yonkers, Jessie Buchanan at Mount Vernon.

To present even an approximate roster of the teachers who carried on our district schools during their century and a quarter existence as separate schools would be a Herculean task, and would result in almost a roll call of the educated men and women of the families of this area who had ambitions to go into the professions or into business. Most of our later college graduates, lawyers, doctors and successful business men put in a year or two, teaching in the district schools; and while their names are often recorded, I have not thought it advisable to list them. Notice should be given, however, to a few who gave nearly their whole lives to these schools, and who have been especially mentioned by their successors. With no intention of omitting other worthy names, I cite, for long and excellent service: Sarah Macartney, Helen M. Sawyer, Rebecca Henry, Hannah Kingston, Ola Stockwell, Amzella Derouchie, Florence Macartney, Elizabeth Mullarney.

The numbers of the districts, with the names by which they were commonly known, were as follows: In Westville: No. 1, (McGrath (McGraw)); No. 2, Avery; No. 3, Westville Centre; No. 4, Briggs Street; No. 5, Westville Corners or Wright district! No. 7, Pilfershire or Sulphur Springs; No. 8, Hoadley, or Coal Hill. In Fort Covington, No. 1, the village; (the elementary grades were taught on the first floor of the Academy, built in 1875), No. 2, Creighton Road; No. 3, Drum Street; No. 4, McKenna; No. 5, Tuper; No. 6, Deer River or Ellsworth; No. 7, Webb; No. 8, McQueen; (this district never had a log school), No. 9, Wilson; No. 10, Cook's Corners.

In Bombay; No. 1, Bombay Corners; No. 2, West Road (this was the school so vividly described by William Reed in his "Life on the Border," as having been opened in 1824, and taught successively by two "ponderous gentlemen" — Wilson Randall and Ben Rolfe, and later by Sylvester Parr — "who degenerated into a Baptist preacher . . . and under him the practice of whipping became considerable of an exercise"; and after him, Amos Emerson, who used blue beeches freely); No. 3, Bradley's Corners; No. 4, Hogansburg; No. 5, South road; No. 6, Cold Spring; No. 7, South

Bombay; No. 8, Southeast; No. 9 (not shown on map of 1876); No. 10, McElwain; No. 11, Dog Hollow.

Mrs. Amzella (Derouchie) Brockway has furnished an enlightening description of a school she taught in 1914-15 on the St. Regis Reservation. It agrees substantially with the picture presented above. She adds that seats and desks were all of one size; school ran in all kinds of weather, and only in blizzards did parents come for their children; lunches were brought in cardboard boxes or syrup pails; water came from a neighboring well; "I had to do the sweeping, dusting and fires" . . . "we also had to burn a sulphur mold every Friday night before leaving the building. . . . As I remember, there weren't the colds then that we have today, and health seemed better." Miss Derouchie — as she was then — received \$1.80 a day; and paid \$5 a week for board. Mrs. Brockway, who closed her long teaching career in the comparative luxury of Salmon Central School, concludes that today's pupils do not realize how fortunate they are.



Baptist Church, Fort Covington. Note Historical Marker

19 FORT COVINGTON ACADEMY

The oldest, largest and best-known school in the Three Towns was the Fort Covington Academy, which bore that name for 73 years, and was then transformed into the Fort Covington High School, which continued the tradition for 54 years longer. Practically all the children of the Three Towns who continued their education beyond the eighth grade went to the Academy or its successor, although, as with most such schools, only a minority completed the course and were graduated.

Fort Covington Academy was chartered by the Legislature on April 21, 1831, at a time when a wave of "academies" was springing up all over the state, some of which became very famous indeed, and kept their identities until recent years. It is interesting to note that Franklin Academy at Malone started in the same year — 1831 — and that each academy started with one teacher. Fort Covington Academy was incorporated as a stock company, with a capital of \$2,000. This money, pledged to ensure that the school should be kept going, was furnished by William Hogan, John A. Savage, Samuel Hoard and their associates, the leading businessmen in the village, who subscribed shares of \$25 each. \$2,985 was subscribed in 45 notes. Nineteen trustees included Allen Lincoln, Roswell Bates, Luther Danforth, Aretus Hitchcock and Ora F. Paddock. The school was admitted to the Regents in the same year. In 1853 it was reorganized under a board of education, and districts 1 and 2 were consolidated. By act of March 30, 1866, the board was allowed to conduct a free graded school and to use such a part of the public square as they might see fit. On June 27, 1904, the Regents transformed the Academy into the Fort Covington High School.

During its first year, the Academy was conducted on the second floor of the town hall, which was then on the lot at the junction of Chateaugay Street and High Street, where

St. Mary's School is now. The next year it moved into a two-story stone building erected for it by John J. Fraser and Hugh McKinnon on the public square, west of the river. That building was gutted by fire in 1874.

In 1876, a new Academy, a frame building, was built on the same square, near its southwest corner. That building remained the home of the school until 1958, when the high school was transferred to the new Salmon Central School, on the Hogansburg road. The library was then disposed of to the people of the village; the seats, blackboards, lights, etc., were sold to neighboring school districts, realizing about \$2900, which maintained the playground and skating rink on the old schoolground for three years; the boiler and motors were given to the Fire Company; the equipment that had been used in the agricultural shop was taken up to the new school. Then the building was razed, and the long and honorable history of the Fort Covington Academy came to an end.

The following men served as Principals: 1831-32, Rev. John A. Savage; 1832-3, Alexander T. Buel; 1833-35, Daniel Branch; 1835-36, Milton Bradley; 1836-37, Rev. H. B. Dodge; 1837-39, Ebenezer H. Squire; 1839-41, Miller; 1841-43, John Bradshaw; 1845, James C. Spencer; 1847-48, Caleb S. Sanford; 1848-50, Rev. Luther Humphrey; 1850-54, George A. Atwood; 1854-57, A. T. Brown; 1857-58, George M. Wheeler; 1858-62, Rev. John Bell; 1862-65, Rev. J. Spencer Blandin; 1865-69, John B. Young; 1869-70, James Howard; 1870-71, George G. Ryan; 1871-73, Walter H. Winchester; 1873-74, James W. White; 1874-75, G. H. W. Smith; 1875-76, Joseph B. Irwin; 1877, Walter H. Winchester; 1877-81, Millard F. Perry; 1881-82, John H. Gardner; 1882-83, Leslie Groves; 1883-88, Warren T. Cheney; 1888-92, Walter S. Flint; 1892-94, Lester W. Ward; 1894-97, Harlow Godard; 1897-98, Ernest Robinson; 1898-1907, J. Leslie Cummings; 1907-08, William C. Jones; 1908-12, F. M. Westfall; 1912-14, Robert L. Joyce; 1914-18, Glenn A. Sealey; 1918-25, Carl A. Lewis; 1925-58, Harry J. Weir.

A perusal of these names shows that in earlier years many principals stayed only one year. During the first 75 years, there were 33 incumbents. As a striking contrast, the last principal, Harry J. Weir, officiated during 35 years, which is a tribute to his efficiency and popularity. Remarkable to note, Mr. Weir, now enjoying well-earned retirement, is still a single man.

A second notable feature concerning these principals is the fact that quite a number were Protestant clergymen; evidently, the "separation of church and state" was not strictly interpreted in those days. There is no indication that the school suffered from religious influence, Hymns were commonly on the program of school assemblies, and the day's work was usually opened with the reading of a passage from the King James Bible. I know of only one case where objection was made, and that was quietly disregarded. In addition to the principals who were ministers, three others — John H. Gardner, Lester W. Ward and Harlow Godard — entered the ministry, later.

The frequent change of principals, and the employment at one time of James C. Spencer, who had already been a leading political figure in the village for some years, might indicate that there was difficulty in getting and keeping competent teachers. A letter written by George A. Atwood in the early 1850s tells us that he was to begin his term the following week and "do not expect a great school this Fall, probably not more than 30. . . . I have the following pay: 1st, the tuition; 2nd, the money that the students draw from the State Literature Fund, which amounts to about fifty dollars a year; 3rd, fifty dollars a year from the Academy fund." Hough's History reports Atwood's salary in 1850 to be \$307, out of a total of \$388 received by the school. However, there is evidence that among the principals were men of character and ability. Walter H. Winchester moved to the West, where he practiced law, became a judge, and in later years used to revisit the old town, to renew old friendships in Fort Covington.

Leslie B. Groves studied for the ministry and the law, served in the Boxer Rebellion in China, and had a career in

the Army, retiring in 1918, with the rank of major. He settled eventually in California, where he died at Pasadena in 1939.

Walter S. Flint was a graduate of Potsdam Normal School. Fort Covington was his first principalship, and he took an active part in social life and entertainments. He married Hattie Benedict, who was also on the local faculty. J. Leslie Cummings, a graduate of St. Lawrence University, was a successful principal for several years, and married Bessie Brown, daughter of Mrs. Abby Brown, who belonged to the Cheney family.

Beginning with the 1880s, each principal had associated with him a lady who had the title of preceptress, and at times, there was a vice preceptress; they divided with the principals teaching of various subjects according to their tastes and training. There was a music teacher, who worked with various grades. Among the women who performed important duties in the Academy should be named Alice S. Pike, who became Mrs. Frank Spencer, Bertha M. Brown, Vera Lyon, Lilian Brown (Mrs. Dr. Anderson), Nell Brown (Mrs. Allen McElwain), Bess Cameron (Mrs. Harlan S. Remmel), Mary Barlow (Mrs. Earl W. Scriptor), Miss J. A. McGinn and Florence Macartney (Mrs. George Hunter).

In the spring of 1895, Principal Harlow Godard submitted a report of his work which points very interestingly to some of the problems which faced the teachers of that day, and ideas as to their solution. The report states that during the preceding year "the course of study has been completely modified in all grades," the chief changes consisting in a) the substitution of the entire works of an author for the former reader; b) greater stress on oral English, which Mr. Godard found "lamentably poor"; and c) lengthening the academic course to four years. The last was the result of a new regulation of the Regents, and, incidentally, led to a new form of diploma. A list of English and American classics read in the classes is given, and it is reported that great enthusiasm for them is shown.

Mr. Godard attempted to substitute vertical handwriting for the traditional "Spenserian" penmanship. He argued strongly for its superiority in hygienic posture and in legibility; and, although I do not think it became generally used as he hoped, it did gain at least one lifelong disciple, and to its legibility anyone who has corresponded with the author of this book can testify.

In those days, the Academy had training classes for prospective elementary grade teachers. This decreased the need for them to attend normal schools at Potsdam or Plattsburg, as had been customary for some years before.

Debating was encouraged, and it certainly stimulated interest in public affairs. I do not recall any interscholastic debating, nor, for that matter, was there much interscholastic rivalry, either scholarly or athletic.

The graduating class at the Academy usually included five to ten members, but was given much attention and careful training for the annual "Commencement," which was held the last week in June in Stafford's Hall or in Eagle Hall.

Few young people from the Three Towns went to college, in the 19th century. Although college tuition fees were as low as \$100 a year or less, and the cost of travel and of board was correspondingly cheap, it was still a formidable deterrent to most families, and they needed to be convinced — as only a few were — that a college education was a vital asset. Among the early settlers, only the medical doctors and an occasional lawyer had been to college; usually to Dartmouth, Middlebury or Union.

Charles P. Matthews was one of the first natives of the towns to make real use of college. His career is described in a later chapter. Others who went to college in early days from the area included William S. Denneen (Georgetown), Francis S. Denneen (Purdue), Fred Smart (Dartmouth), Clarence V. Donovan (Michigan), Herbert D. A. Donovan (Cornell), Cecil Kelsey (Syracuse), Leonard J. Farley (St. Lawrence), Edgar Reardon (St. Lawrence), and Watson DeGowin (Michigan).

After the turn of the century, colleges became more popular, scholarships became available, and in recent years so

many graduates of high school have continued their education in college that enumeration of them is impracticable. State teachers' colleges — formerly normal schools — have received many of the girls.

Fort Covington Academy, from its earliest days, attracted a good many students from outside areas, including not a few Canadians. Paying only a moderate tuition fee and sometimes working for their board, these visitors attended its courses and some of them later reflected much credit on the school. Among them were Charles A. Burke of Hogansburg, George Rockwood and Lewis C. Barber, of Bombay, Joseph Moore, George J. Moore, Leonard Farley and Walter Handly of Sts. Agnes.

In Principal Godard's report, referred to above, he states that in 1895, out of an enrollment of 303 in the high school and grades, 36 were non-residents; he suggests that the residential requirements were laxly interpreted.

All through the years, the Academy played a leading role in the cultural and social life of the community. Always, the faculty and talented students appeared in public entertainments, sometimes for a worthy cause, often "just for fun." Thus, in Civil War days, Principal Blandin and several of his teachers took the leading parts in a patriotic play in Mears' Grove. No doubt many a local family has one or more faded sheets tucked away that testify to the work and enjoyment of successive generations of high school pupils and their teachers. One example was a play given on Dec. 20, 1923, by "The Dramatic Club of the Fort Covington High School," whose stage manager and coach was Miss Ruth Webster, the pianist was Mrs. H. B. Farquahar, and the leading characters were portrayed by Howard Brockway, Leo McKenna, Caroline Macartney, Margaret Lacombe and Ada Henry.

The townspeople were very loyal to the school, and the businessmen made it a practice to donate fixtures and services to the good cause; thus, on the occasion last cited, Frank Cosgrove provided stage furnishings, and W. S. H. Keefe gave the electrical work. The Board of Education had nine members, elected for staggered terms of three years.

In 1916-17, William J. Donovan was president; the other members were Messrs. G. H. Macartney, Albert McNair, W. G. Cushman, Den McCarthy, Levi Rouselle, Dr. George Anderson, George Campbell and E. J. Forbes. T. A. Chisholm was treasurer, and Levi Derouchie was collector. P. B. McMorrow is listed as janitor and truant officer. The janitorship was a serious job, and mention of it rouses vivid memories of such colorful characters as Billie Crangle, with his dour countenance but conscientious attention to his "pooterin job"; of genial Pat McMorrow, who came to the Fort with the assignment here of his brother, Father Charles McMorrow, and remained as a permanent and well-liked resident; and of various others who were far from being the mechanical executors of other people's policies which such a job might entail today.

With the progress of the years and changes in personnel, the old high school took up new trends and lines of activity called for by modern times. Agricultural teaching was more and more emphasized, and teachers specially trained for that work were employed, and were given a shop to themselves. During the summer of 1941, the sophomore class, under the direction of Charles Morris, Ag teacher, took over the Roger Lucas garden, and raised 76 bushels of turnips, which they sold at 75 cents a bushel, and put the proceeds in their class treasury. During the same period, the Surplus Foods program was taken up, and 200 or more pupils were furnished a noon-day meal and snacks during the day; four local women were employed in the school cafeteria, and showcases to exhibit the edibles made there and thus tempt the pupils were set up.

The High School continued to progress and expand from year to year until its replacement in 1958 closed the old era.

The Bombay Union School was built in 1890 or 1892, with only two rooms, but several additions to it expanded it finally to thirteen rooms. It was located near the Town Hall, which was used as a school while it was being built. It was chartered as a high school in 1903. Its first graduate was Kate Doonan (Mrs. Everett McElwain) in 1904.

Among early teachers in this school, we find the names of Misses Amanda Reynolds, Bid Daly, Ella Parker, Nellie Dimond, Nellie Lantry, Grace Blood, Elizabeth Buchanan, Mida McKenna, Kathryn Kingston; and Messrs. Earl Conrad, Mr. Williams, Asa M. Wittaker (who married Elizabeth Buchanan), Harold Cornish, C. F. Regan and R. I. Banford, who was here for thirteen years. Later came Orville Dishaw (1926-31), Hugh Tobin (1931-32), L. C. Barber (1932-44), and Thomas C. Cavanaugh (1944-58), the present supervising principal of Salmon Central School.

The building had been sold by the Central School board to Ronnie Collette, who re-sold it, but on the night of Nov. 27, 1960, it was completely destroyed by fire.

A school which for many years enjoyed a reputation second to none in northern New York was the Convent of Mercy school in Hogansburg. This school was opened in 1878, and was conducted as a day and boarding school in the building formerly used as St. Patrick's church. In 1880, a three-story convent and school was erected on a beautiful site on the banks of the St. Regis river, and the school was continued there with financial help from the Drexel Fund, which provided \$5,000 per year for the education and training of St. Regis Indian girls. The convent was closed on Oct. 31, 1934. Work was started in April, 1936, on an Indian school, which was completed in the following January.



The William Hogan House, Fort Covington's First Postoffice (1818)

20

RELIGIOUS LIFE

Next to the education of their children, the non-material activity that interested the inhabitants of the Three Towns most was the maintenance of their churches and cemeteries.

The oldest church in the area, and one with a continuous history of over 200 years, is the Catholic mission of St. Regis, which has been in operation for that branch of the Mohawk Indians during all that time, and is now larger and more active than at any previous time. It is under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the diocese of Valleyfield, Quebec, but more than one-half of its 3550 people live on the American side of the Line, in what would have been the town of Bombay, had it not been for the prior existence of the Indian settlement as told above.

From 1752 to 1762, the parish records show, Rev. Jean-Baptiste Billard, S. J., attended the few Indians then here, and had them build a simple log structure to be used as a church; whether Father Billard lived here is uncertain.

The church stands in a beautiful location almost on the bank of the St. Lawrence, at the mouth of the St. Regis. The priest's house is even closer to the river's edge, and there have been times when both were in serious danger from ice jams.

Fr. Antoin Gordan, S. J., arrived in the little settlement on June 16, 1762, bringing with him, it is said, some 35 families from Caughnawaga — of the "better families," such as Tarbells, who wanted to get away from the drunkenness and vice prevalent among soldiers in nearby Montreal. The date being the feast day of St. Jean Francis Regis (1597-1640), a famous and beloved French missionary the settlement was renamed in his honor; its former Indian name is said to have been "Ak-sis-sas-ne" meaning "where the partridge drums."

Father Gordan, whom some have erroneously believed to be a Scotch "Gordon," was appointed pastor, and was

followed by an almost unbroken succession of Canadian priests, most of them French. The Indians have always got on well with the French, many of whom intermarried into the tribe. The earliest records were written in Latin, later ones in French; and careful attention to tribal and family history is evident. The tenure of the priests has been remarkably long, testifying to the healthful climate, as well as the congeniality of their pastoral work. There have been only fourteen pastors in 210 years, viz: Father Jean Billard, 1752; Anthony Gordon, 1762; Joseph Huguet, 1775-83; no resident missionary between 1783 and 1789; Rev. Pierre Dinant stayed four weeks in 1785; and Rev. J. R. McDonald appears in the records from Dec. 23, 1785; Joachim-Rodrigue McDonnell, 1789; Antoine Rinfret, 1807; Jean-Baptiste Roupe, C.S.S., 1809; Joseph Marcoux, 1813; Nicholas Dufresne, 1819; Joseph Vallée, 1827; Francois Xavier Marcoux, 1832 (served over 50 years); Moise Mainville, 1883; J. P. Bourget, 1895-1937; Conrad Hauser, 1937; Michael K. Jacobs, S. J., 1938 to date, Rev. Avila Fauvreau, S.J., is the curate to whose patience and courtesy I am indebted for these data.

Father Jacobs is the first priest here of Indian blood, but his predecessors all preached in the Indian language, and Father Mainville studied and mastered the Indian language to a degree that enabled him to write devotional treatises in it. He lived to be an old man, although afflicted with a throat ailment, because of which he had to wear a beard. He had a stentorian voice, whose intoning of the "Ora pro Nobis" during Forty Hours services must be remembered by old-time Catholics.

Father Gordan's first permanent enterprise, upon arriving in St. Regis, was to construct a church, which was of logs covered with bark, with one end partitioned off for the priest's residence. When this burned, it was replaced by a frame building, which was used for thirty years. A stone church replaced that in 1792, with walls four feet thick. These walls suffered little when the interior was gutted by fire in 1865, and the present church was completed in 1886. It is of native stone, well-lighted, with some stained glass,

and contains comfortable pews, although in early days the Indians sat on the floor, customarily, the sexes opposite each other. The priest's residence is but a few yards away, almost on the bank of the river. Near it stands a stone post, suitably inscribed, expressing gratitude to God for having spared the building from being overwhelmed in the going out of the river ice in 1935. Father Gordan served the Indians at St. Regis until his health failed, when he returned to Caughnawaga in 1775.

The population of the parish is now estimated at 1850 in the United States and 1700 in Canada. There are 364 pupils in the Canadian parochial schools, including about 30 non-Catholics . . . On the American side, 350 in grade school, 140 in high school. Teachers on the Canadian side include six sisters of Ste. Anne, and eleven lay teachers, three male and eight female. The parish has produced one priest — Rev. George White, O.M.I., who was ordained in 1945 and is a missionary in Brazil. Five young women from the American side have become nuns.

St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Hogansburg was the first Catholic Church in the town of Bombay, and was the mother church of all Catholic churches between Massena and Churubusco. It was the result of the observations of Bishop Dubois of New York, who had made several trips by dog sled to this remote corner of the diocese and had seen the zeal of the pioneers — mostly Irish — who had been travelling through the woods to St. Regis to attend Mass. The church was incorporated November 7, 1834, when six lay trustees, including David O'Neill and James Murphy of Bombay, and Patrick Feeley and Lantry Adams of Hogansburg. Rev. John McNulty was the first pastor. The pastors have included: Father McNulty; Frs. James Keveney (1843-51); Thomas Keveney (1851-55); Maurice Sheehan (1855-59); Thomas McGinn (1859-62); J. DeLuca (1862-69); Thomas E. Walsh (1869-78); Michael J. Brown (1878-1917); Hugh O'Reilly (1917-35); Leon Laporte (1935-40); Msgr. Walter Funcke (1940-58); and Joseph Stickelmyer (1958 to date). The parish was long noted for its Sisters of Mercy school, which is described elsewhere.

Father Brown was a native of Malone, and during his long pastorate, he became well-known and popular in all the surrounding area. Msgr. Funcke was a brilliant man of large ideas and widely travelled. The annual barbecue which he promoted attracted thousands of visitors. They were served in large tents, at the rate of 1,000 persons per hour.

The Hogansburg parish has had the following vocations: Priests; Rt. Rev. Msgr. John H. O'Neill, V.F.; Rt. Rev. Msgr. Cornelius Crowley; Very Rev. Thomas Lantry O'Neill, C.S.P.; Rev. Fathers Jeremiah Murphy, Timothy Mahoney, Frederick Otis Labrake, Michael Brown. Sisters (family names in parentheses): Mother M. Patricia (Mahoney) O.S.V.; Mother M. Xavier (Ward), Mother M. Catherine McAuley (Connolly), Sisters M. Victoria (Ward), M. Inez (Beaulieu), M. Genevieve (Grow), M. Catherine (Lantry), M. Beatrice (Mahoney), M. Clare (Mahoney), M. Vianney (Grow), M. Henrietta (Bero), all of the R.S.M. order — Sisters Clara Agnes (), Ignatius (Cotter), Ignatius (Connolly), M. Marcella (Carville), Priscilla (McIntyre) — all S.S.J.; Sister Mary of the Holy Cross (Prairie) O.S.M.; Sister Eamon Reagon, O.P.; Sisters St. Peter, S.G.C.; M. Donalda (McDonald), M. Unitas (Southwick), S.A.

There have been two Episcopal churches in Hogansburg, but there is none at the present time. Both of these churches stood on the main street, near the east end of the village. The first was erected at the expense of William Hogan, in the 1830s, but was apparently never completed — one writer describes it as “barnlike” — and was scarcely ever used. It was noticeable for its very steep roof. It burned down, a few years ago, while being used to store hay. The other church was built in 1874, and was erected and maintained chiefly by Alfred Fulton, a leading merchant. This church, too, was destroyed by fire in 1961.

The only Episcopal clergyman who made his home in Hogansburg was Rev. Eleazar Williams, who lived here from 1850 to 1858, when he died, and was buried here. This man appears at several different times in the history of the place as a missionary to the Indians, and was recog-

nized as such by the authorities of the Episcopal church. He served in the same capacity with the Oneida Indians at Green Bay, Wisconsin. At one time there was a controversy over whether or not he could receive "August money" as a member of the St. Regis tribe. In fact, he was a man of mystery; for although most people believed him to be an Indian, and he talked and preached fluently several Indian dialect, he still claimed, in his later years — from 1848 on — to be a white man, and no less a personage than "the Lost Dauphin," who should have been Louis XVII of France! The controversy over this became nationwide after the publication in 1853 of an article in Putnam's Magazine which described and supported his alleged French ancestry. The arguments pro and con have been raging ever since in books, newspaper columns, even in a best-seller novel "Lazarre." Those who are interested can find a very readable and obviously unprejudiced narration, in ample detail, in Frederick J. Seaver's "Historical Sketches," which devotes a chapter of nearly twenty pages to the story. Many people believed the tale, and many still do. Mrs. Congdon of Fort Covington wore to a ball an elaborate gown which she claimed was once worn by Marie Antoinette, the "Dauphin's" mother. But for our purposes, and on the basis of Rev. Williams' rather inglorious record in Hogansburg, we know him only as a missionary whose work here faded away after his death.

The house in which "the lost Dauphin" lived was bought by the State of New York in 1938 from the Episcopal diocese of Albany, and distinguished by an historical marker. However, the State authorities changed their minds — whether because of doubt as to his claim, I can not say — and in 1952, the Board of Supervisors authorized the County Historian to sell the property to the highest bidder. It was bought by Orlen and Doris Ellsworth, of Hogansburg, for \$1200, of which the Diocese received \$100. Meantime, in 1947, the remains of the body of Williams, who had died a pauper on the Reservation, were exhumed and sent to Wisconsin, where he had formerly lived.

The Methodists started a mission to the Indians in

1847, building a church just outside the Reservation. Pastors have included Revs. J. P. Jennings, L. Brown, Alonzo Wells, W. C. Kinsbury, John Tagg. At least one of their ministers — Thomas LaFort — who was pastor from 1868 to 1886 — was an Indian, and the church records show that his pastorate was a stormy one. It is now estimated that perhaps ten per cent of the Indians are non-Catholic. The St. Regis church has now been abandoned, and its congregation attend the Methodist church in Hogansburg, where Rev. Leonard W. Owens reports 172 members.

William Reed recounts how, when he lived in Bombay as a boy, the Yankee settlers there who had been Congregationalists in New England, formed a church of that denomination at Bombay Corners, but the minister they hired stayed only one year, and the congregation lasted only a short time longer. Rev. Nathaniel Colver then moved in, and for some years the Baptists flourished. But they seem never to have had a church there.

The Methodists, led by their energetic circuit-riders, of whom Luther Lee was most prominent, built a church at the Corners in 1833. The land on which the church stands was donated by Dr. E. K. Smith. The church was paid for by payments for the use of pews, and by slips (promissory notes). "The payments could be paid in $\frac{3}{4}$ meat stock and $\frac{1}{4}$ in cash on the 1st of October, 1836; but the stock payment could be made in good merchantable grain on the 15th of January following . . . Some of the pews were sold to: Samuel Trobridge, No. 1 — \$79.60; O. Riley, No. 14 — \$41; Jos. Elliott, No. 13 — \$42; Jas. McRoberts, No. 4 — \$85. Some of the slips sold were to Dr. Smith, George Russell, and Simon Alvinson, about \$44 each." The first trustees were: James McRoberts, Joseph Elliott, Simon Alvinson, Samuel Trobridge, Charles Russell, Samuel Mott, Ira Tracy, Hiram Mott and Panedon Trobridge. The church was replaced by a brick edifice on the same site in 1874. The old minutes, kept by James McRoberts, show that the congregation had its ups and downs, once in 1872 dropping to 22 members. Bombay, South Bombay and Helena were usually attended by the same minister, whose salary in 1878

was apportioned as follows: Bombay Corners, \$475; South Bombay, \$30; Helena, \$200. Pastors have included Revs. W. C. Mason, I. E. Stoddard, Rufus E. King, E. Smead, William S. Chase, M. M. Rice, L. L. Greene, Charles Marron (1866-74), F. R. Griffiths, D. E. Robson, and many others. The first parsonage was on the site now occupied by Ernest Foy. The present parsonage was built in the pastorate of Rev. Griffiths — about 1916. The first funeral held from the “Brick Church,” as it was regularly called, was that of Norman Cross, a half-brother of Hazen K. Cross; that was in 1867.

The Methodists had services in South Bombay from an early date. They incorporated in 1890, with James Moore, D. A. Stanton, George W. Russell and John Barrett as trustees.

About ten years ago, the Mormons (Latter Day Saints) opened a mission in Hogansburg. They have bought the former schoolhouse at the west end of the village. Elders take turns in charge.

In Hogansburg, too, is a small congregation of the Church of Christ, with Rev. Andrew Mareale in charge.

The first church built in Fort Covington was the Presbyterian (“Calvinist”) Church, which was erected in 1827. Prior to that, services were held in homes, and conducted mainly by “Father” Brunton, a zealous but quaint little man, of whom Seaver gives a very readable account in his History, as he recalled him in later years in Malone. There was also a Rev. Proudfoot and Rev. Crosby working here; but the minister when the church was erected was Rev. John Savage, who was also first principal of Fort Covington Academy. There was much sectarian bitterness among the Protestant sects; it is recorded that when James Erwin joined the Methodists, about 1826, his father, an elder and a leading figure among the Presbyterians, put him out of the house, saying scornfully that he would as soon see him join the Catholics as the “ranting Methodists.” But the boy’s mother brought him back the next day. The church was erected on Covington Street, and is said to have been modeled after St. Paul’s in London. It was built and en-

larged in 1866, a beautiful structure, of which the village was very proud; but it was unfortunately destroyed by fire in 1923. It has been rebuilt and has its manse adjoining; the latter was at one time in the house now occupied by Joseph Henault down Covington Street, near the river. Mrs. Dr. Blackett, in her will probated in 1960, gave a substantial benefaction to the church. Stiles Stevens bequeathed it half of his estate.

The first trustees were: David L. Seymour, Charles Marsh, Parret Blaisdell, Jabez Parkhurst, Samuel Hoard and Aretus Hitchcock. The ministers have included Revs. John A. Savage, James George, Aaron Foster, James Qua, P. Wells, Solomon Williams, Russell (1843-45), D. C. Lyon, Charles Gillette, Moses Thatcher, Andrew L. Millar, Chandler L. Thomas, Daniel Maclay, John H. Gardner. Of these, special mention must be made of Rev. John H. Gardner, who served his church and community for more than 47 years, dying just on the eve of his announced retirement. A man of boundless energy and geniality, he was a friend to all, and a part of every good movement in the community. He was a graduate of Hamilton College and of Princeton Theological Seminary. His three sons were educated in our local high school, and the youngest went into the ministry, and is Rev. Dr. John H. Gardner, Jr., of Baltimore. Rev. James Morton is the minister in 1962.

The second church in Fort Covington was the Baptist, which was dedicated in 1829, although there were Baptists here even before 1820. The house now occupied by Harland R. Horton was built by the Baptists for a parsonage. Their first minister, Rev. Nathaniel Colver, was a very aggressive man, fond of disputation, and eager to extend his denomination. But, when he became a violent anti-Mason, in the national agitation started against the Masonic order, he alienated many of his congregation, and the Baptists began to lose ground. However, many of the prominent people of the town, such as William Hogle and William Gillis Cushman, adhered to it, and pastors were employed, though not continuously, until 1912; Rev. Samuel C. Welsh being

the last. Other ministers who stayed some time included H. Safford (1829-36), J. B. Drummon (1843-51), Charles Bailey (1875-79), and L. A. Cummins (1905-7).

Thereafter, the Baptist church — a neat frame structure on Salmon Street — was closed most of the time, and it was finally sold a few years ago to the local lodge of Masons, who now maintain it.

Methodism reached this area about 1830, and spread fast, promoted largely by "circuit riders" — itinerant preachers, who, without any formal education or theological training, set out to expound the message of the Gospels as they conceived it to be; they received a bare living pittance and were kept in clothes and the necessities of their calling by their followers. The most famous of these riders was James Erwin, who was born in Fort Covington in 1813, son of a well-known Presbyterian, who had a large family and was then living in a brick house on the hill near the Little Salmon. The boy was apprenticed to a goldsmith, as Nathaniel Colver had been to a tanner; they were taught mostly at home. Erwin's mother attended a Methodist prayer meeting, "got religion" and converted her son. In his "Reminiscences," published many years later, Erwin tells us that his first public appearance was at Coal Hill in Westville, when he was 16. "My 19th year, and part of my 20th, . . . in Fort Covington Academy." He was sent to Chateaugay in 1835, and later worked in the Black River country for years. He "rode circuit" for forty years, and a strenuous life it was. A rider customarily rode from fifteen to thirty miles on Sunday and spent from six to eight hours in meetings; a single prayer would last as long as one hour and ten minutes. The circuits were so long that most communities got a service only once in two weeks. Rev. Erwin describes the outfit of a Methodist minister in 1834 as consisting of "a horse, saddle and Bible, saddlebags, a camelot cloak with a cape down to the tips of his fingers, a broad-brimmed white hat, and clothes of plainest cut — some would not use buttons." Drinking liquor was the chief abuse the clergyman contended. The Methodists formed the first

Temperance Society here, and the women took it up enthusiastically, and with later success, as we shall see.

The Methodist Society in Fort Covington was organized on November 5, 1835, and built a church the following year on a site donated by Wallace L. Manning, where Stewart's I.G.A. store now stands. In 1859, it was moved to its present site, a few rods further east, and a vestibule and basement were added. In 1955, the interior was completely redecorated, and further improvements were added, later. The Society was not incorporated until 1838, with David Rich, Humphrey Russell and Ralph D. Ellsworth as trustees. The membership has been recorded as high as 366. The list of pastors who have served this church comprises more than 42 names, but many were here only briefly. Of those who stayed longer, or for other reasons are better remembered, may be mentioned: Irvin Anson Merrick — grandfather of Mrs. Maud Banks — he was a carpenter in charge of the society from 1859 to 1869; S. J. Greenfield (1888-1893); J. G. Benson (1907-14); Philip Tonkin (1917-22); and P. DiFlorio (1935-38). Rev. Carlton J. Frazier had two terms at different periods. The present pastor is Rev. Dorothy Bullard, who lives in Bombay, and cares for three congregations — Fort Covington, 67 members; Bombay, 79; and South Bombay, 29. Under her care, each of the churches has improved its building by redecoration and the installation of modern facilities, and a new steeple has been built in South Bombay.

The influx of Irish Catholics, beginning in the late 1820s, created a rising demand for a Catholic church to relieve them of walking through the forest to St. Regis or Hogansburg, as they had been doing for years. It is recorded that in 1826 and after, Father Moore of Huntingdon came to say Mass on more than one occasion in Bridges' hotel. In the winter of 1829-30, Bishop Dubois came from New York — over 400 miles — to administer confirmation. Finally, in 1837, Fr. John McNulty of Hogansburg obtained permission from Bishop John Hughes of New York to build a church in Fort Covington. The church was built at once, all the Catholic farmers turning out to help with labor and,

where possible, with teams. William Leahy provided money to carry on the work. Patrick Holden gave part of the stone, for the church was built of stone, and amply planned to accommodate the large congregation which, as was foreseen, would later fill it. It stood at the east end of the village, at the junction of Chateaugay Street, and the Malone road, where it stands today, a landmark for a large area. Mass was said there before winter came on, although the parish was not incorporated until March 25, 1840, when it received the name by which it is now known — St. Mary's of Fort Covington. The first trustees were William Leahy, William McKenna, Michael Caldwell, James Fitzgerald, Michael Murphy, Hugh Laffey and Austin McDonnell. From 1837 to 1869, the parish was administered from Hogansburg, and it is told that Father James Keveney had a special affection for the place; at any rate he and his brother and successor, Father Thomas Keveney, were always named with affection by the older parishioners.

The first resident pastor was Father Michael Stanton (1869-73). His successors have been Fathers Thomas McNally (1873-81), Guilbault (1881-2), Dennis Nolan (1882-3), Charles J. McMorro (1883-93), James McGowan Sr. (1893-1910), James McGowan, Jr., nephew of the preceding — in charge (1908-10), Joseph Pontur (1910-11), J. J. Desjardins (1911-23), J. R. Lauzon (1923-44), Robert Dufort (1944-50), and Very Rev. Monsignor Edmund H. Dumas (1950-62); Thomas Robillard, 1962.

Father Stanton, the first pastor, bought a residence — presumably the present one, the brick house on the corner of High Street — and it was paid for (\$3,000) within two weeks. Improvements to the church and house have been made under various pastors. Father McGowan Sr., who had considerable private means, contributed \$2,000 toward a new floor, pews and tower, and donated a bell. Herbert McQueen, who died in 1939, bequeathed \$2,000 to St. Mary's Church and \$500 to its cemetery association. Early in the 1950s, the bishop directed that a parochial school be established. This has been done, and has made a con-

siderable change in the community. The school is housed in the remodelled brick building opposite the rectory — one of the outstanding structures in the village; the house was built by Thomas F. Creed in his prosperous days, and was for years the home of Mrs. Kate McElwain and her daughter Dorothy; it was sold by their estate to Mrs. Horton Almond, who sold it to the parish. Adjoining it on the east is the convent, a large white house, for many years the home of the Thomas Hamilton family, but sold to the parish by Eugene McCann. The school is taught by the Sisters of St. Joseph, its faculty consisting at the present time (1961) of Sr. John Matha, principal, five other Sisters and two lay teachers. It opened in September, 1957, with four grades, but it is now extended to eight.

Several of the priests were born abroad, including Father James McGowan, Sr., who was educated in Ireland and Paris. He was a man of imposing presence and an eloquent speaker; but his strict ideas made it difficult at times to adapt himself to the more liberal ways of the town. Father Desjardins, on the other hand, was most approachable; he roamed the streets, often hailing everyone, and not hesitating to use his stout cane on inebriates whom he might meet. Father Lauzon served St. Mary's for 21 years — longer than any other pastor up to this time. He was a dignified and business-like man, an accomplished musician, who sometimes rendered solos at public entertainments. On the day of his death, he was to have delivered the address to the graduating class of Fort Covington High School, to be held that night at St. Mary's Church.

Father McGowan brought from Ireland several nieces and his nephew, James McGowan, Jr., who studied in and graduated from Fort Covington Academy, and then studied for the priesthood. Upon his ordination in 1905, he was sent here to assist his uncle, who was in failing health. He remained until the senior Father McGowan's death in 1910, and during the last two years, he was in complete charge of St. Mary's parish. He was then appointed pastor at Brownsville, near Watertown, where he remained 51 years until his death — the longest pastorate in the history of the

diocese. Father James bought a two-cylinder automobile in 1910 — one of the first cars to be driven by a clergyman in northern New York.

An outstanding event in town history occurred in 1937, when St. Mary's celebrated its 100th anniversary, with a solemn consecration. This was followed in the evening by a banquet. The church had also observed its 75th anniversary on October 23, 1912, on which occasion there was present Mrs. Lepine, "the oldest living resident, 100 years old."

The parish was the birthplace of two priests, the first being Rev. Daniel Cahill, son of Andrew Cahill, of the Malone road. He was educated first at Potsdam Normal, and taught school to earn money for his further studies. He was pastor at Waddington and at Lake Placid, where he died in 1952. The other priest born here was Rev. Raoul Poirier, W. F. Eleven nuns are named as having received vocations from the parish. Their family names were Daphne Quenville, Evelyn Black, Jeanine Brown, Mary Bailey, Virginia Brockway, Doris Lemay, Donna Brockway, Alice Dumas, Jeanette Cusson, Shirley Brown and Violet LaFleur. All are Josephite Sisters.

The number of Catholics in St. Mary's parish is given as 1495; children in Catholic schools — 270; Catholic children in public schools — 240.

Despite the large number of Irish Catholics in Bombay from its very beginning, it was not until 1905 that St. Joseph's Catholic Church was established here. Previous to that, Bombay Catholics had to travel to Fort Covington or to Hogansburg to fulfill their religious obligations; those living east of the Moira road belonged to St. Mary's, those on the west, to St. Patrick's. However, it was the custom for many years for the priests of those two parishes to travel to Bombay at Easter and at other times, when possible, and to say Mass in one of the larger Catholic homes, particularly those of John Condon and Michael Cavanaugh; the neighbors would gather from miles around.

The burning of St. Patrick's church in 1905 finally gave the opportunity to press upon the bishop and the pastors

the urgent need of a new parish, and the Bombay people acted on it enthusiastically. Armed with a letter to Bishop Gabriels from Father McGowan, a delegation headed by William H. Doonan and William H. McKenna obtained the bishop's consent to set up a parish in Bombay. Work on a church was started at once, on land purchased from Jeremiah Spillings. The church was named St. Joseph's, and the church was dedicated on March 19, 1906. The new parish remained a mission of Fort Covington until 1912, when the first resident priest, Rev. James E. Duffy, arrived. He served until 1918, when he left to become a chaplain in World War I. In the beginning, there were only 28 families in the parish, but the boundaries were soon extended. Father Duffy's successors have been Fathers Patrick J. McGuinness (1918), Aloysius McMahon (1931), Edward Bernier (1937), Heliodore Valois (1940), Cornelius J. Collins (1952; administrator from 1943, and Morris Dwyer 1954 to date).

The rectory was built under Father Duffy. A new main altar, donated by Mrs. Ellen Curtin O'Brien, was erected under Father McGuinness. Other benefactors include Samuel Becknauld, Patrick H. Cavanagh, and the donors of the twelve stained-glass windows. Henry Conant, of Malone, was the architect, and William H. Callahan landscaped the cemetery, which was opened in 1920.

In 1955, St. Joseph's parish celebrated its Golden Jubilee, and on that occasion put out a handsome booklet containing a detailed account of its history. Appropriate illustrations include portraits of all the pastors, pictures of the farm home of John Condon, where Mass was said in early days, of the choir and other parish groups, of "Mrs. Edward Cavanaugh closing organ after forty years of faithful service," and of the stained-glass windows.

The Bombay parish has had the following vocations: Mother Margaret McMullen, O.S.M. and Sister M. Steven (Durant), O.S.M.

Current statistics for the two parishes are: Number of Catholics: Hogansburg, 952; Bombay, 593; Children in

Catholic schools: Hogansburg, 32; Bombay, 11; Catholic children in public schools: Hogansburg, 242; Bombay, 181.

On the south side of Chateaugay St., Fort Covington, near Covington St., stands a neat little frame church which is the home of St. Paul's Episcopal congregation. The Episcopalians here have never been numerous, and their activities flourished chiefly in the early days of this century, when the newly-built railroad brought in a number of Anglican families from Montreal. In early times, Fort Covington was usually joined with Hogansburg in Episcopal services; and even in later times the two congregations usually had the same pastor. One of these was the celebrated Eleazar Williams, of whom I have written. The church records show that he conducted services for Episcopalians in the Town House, which stood on the present site of St. Mary's Catholic school. It was then — in the 1850s — a public building, used alternately by all groups. Services were held "quite regularly" in the homes of the church people. A resident pastor arrived in 1891, and was succeeded by others; they held services in the Masonic Hall and in the Baptist church. Bishop Doane of Albany encouraged the people to build a church. The cornerstone of St. Paul's was laid on June 24, 1898, by Rt. Rev. Leighton Coleman, Bishop of Delaware, acting for Bishop Doane; the ceremony was well attended. The church was opened for services on March 29, 1899. The church was announced as free from debt in March, 1903, and was consecrated on June 18 following; rectors of Massena, Brushton and Malone were present, also Archdeacon Kirby of Potsdam. Meanwhile, a vested choir had been organized, which sang for the first time on June 22, 1902; the singers were: Harold and Bruce Gaudion, Alex and Reginald Hall, Arthur Hunt, Wallace Fay and Earl Gardiner. Two years later, a separate vestry building was added to the church. Outstanding benefactors of the church were Mrs. Richard Grange and her daughter, Mary Dodge, whose long services and deaths are recorded with sorrow in the records; Mrs. Grange came to this village with her husband in 1842; both ladies died in 1906. Other notable benefactors have

included Mrs. Joseph Fay, Miss F. Thompson, Miss Clarkson (of Potsdam), William Morris of Dundee and Mmes. Campbell, Kimball and W. J. Donovan, who gave memorial windows.

Resident pastors have included Revs. Wilford H. Dean, David Jenkins, W. J. Hamilton, S. R. McEwan, Fred Swindlehurst, Howard Mills, Carlos Avelhe (1931-39), C. Ward Courtney, William L. Gray (1955), William West and Gerald C. Robertson (1962).

In all the Fort Covington churches activities of laymen's groups have played a prominent part, and have had much to do, socially as well as spiritually, in keeping alive the congregational spirit. These groups have included the Christian Endeavor among the Presbyterians, the Epworth League and Methodist Fellowship among the Methodists, the Holy Name and Rosary Societies among the Catholics and the St. Agnes Guild among the Episcopalians.

Before the middle of the 19th century, there was a small number of Universalists in the Three Towns, particularly in Westville. In 1838, a "Free Church" was built at Westville Corners, to which Edward Ellice contributed \$1,000. The Universalists used this building, as did the Presbyterians and Methodists; but apparently there was never a resident Universalist pastor.

The only church erected in the town of Fort Covington, outside of the village, was in Cook's Corners, where a Wesleyan Methodist Congregation was formed and a church erected in 1871. The church is still in use. It stands right north of the Bangor town line, and is used by people of both towns. Elder May was its first minister, Rev. Mr. Jock was in charge for many years, and Rev. Otis McDonald is the present pastor. He lives in Gouverneur and keeps the records there.

The first church built in Westville was the Union Free Church erected in 1838, as mentioned above. Its first trustees were: James Walker, Latham Hyde, Buel Man, Grafton Downes, David Freeman and Henry Button. Beginning about 1830, Methodists began to meet in each other's homes or in schoolhouses, listening to James Erwin

or other circuit riders. Mention of them appears in the records of the Black River Conference, from 1837 on. Laymen held services and officiated at funerals; Charles Johnson and Barnabas Berry were active in that way. As membership grew, a demand grew for a church of their own. In February and March, 1868, meetings were held in the schoolhouse to lay plans. A committee consisting of Robert Dunlop (chairman), Buel Man, W. H. Freeman, H. Hooker, Alex Graves, W. C. Johnson, A. E. Hyde and Marshall Hoadley was named, and this committee approved the idea. \$1179 was subscribed, and a lot was purchased from the Ellsworth brothers for \$15. Work on the church began the next year, and a newspaper account states that a strawberry festival brought in \$248 for the building. The church was in operation by April, 1873. Miss Fidélia Hadley presented a large pulpit bible. The trustees were Robert Clark, W. Harrison Freeman, and A. E. Hyde. The first pastor was Rev. G. S. Hastings. His successors have been Revs. Dillenbeck, Eddy, Lent, Wood, Brokenshire, Bragg, Kelly, Clawson, Fisher, Smith, French, Scott, Davis, Green, Huyck, Gray, Higbe, Rose, Baker, Mang, Cotnam, Jones, McVeigh, and Rev. Edward George — the present (1961) pastor.

In 1886, the Presbyterians in Westville petitioned the Champlain Presbytery to authorize a separate church. Those signing the petition were Dr. Lauriston Berry, Miss Clare Seeley, Mrs. Alvira Payne, Mr. and Mrs. James Ross, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Walker, Mrs. Mary McCreedy, Miss Pricinda Walker, Mrs. Laura Waggoner, Mrs. John B. Niles, Mrs. Melvina Wilson, Miss Sabra Johnson and Mrs. James Johnson. After the petition was approved by a committee named by the presbytery, a site was selected, on rising ground east of the Ordway store at Westville Corners, the land being purchased from Mary Cunningham, on Sept. 17, 1886. The work was done by Joseph Walker and sons, assisted by other towns-people. The first elders were Dr. Berry, Joseph Walker, John C. Wright and Alonzo Rhoades; the last named was also superintendent of the Sunday school, which was organized in 1889; it had 91 members and six

teachers. Other societies have also worked for the church. The early pastors lived in Constable. Rev. John H. Gardner, of Fort Covington, was in charge from 1910 to 1940. Later pastors were Revs. McKirdy (1940-54), Farr (1954-58) and Rev. James Morton, the present pastor.

The Catholics of Westville always attended Mass in Fort Covington, Trout River (St. Bridget) or Constable (St. Francis) until 1959. In the latter year, as the result of the painstaking efforts of Rev. F. Gordon Coseo, pastor of St. Francis', a fine new Catholic church was completed and dedicated, and was named Our Lady of Fatima. It stands beside the state road, about two miles south of Westville Center. Its pastor is Rev. John McNamara. The church is built of double cement blocks with a red facade. A plaque of Tennessee marble over the door bears the name of the church; and a large cross is placed slightly to the left of center. Almost all of the construction of the church was by voluntary labor, including the roof, trusses and decking, as well as the electrical installation, floors and heating. The church will seat about 200.

In former years a prominent religious — and to many, a social — activity for the people of this neighborhood were the camp meetings held each year at Brushton.

Equal in historical importance to the churches are the cemeteries — most of them, quite old — which dot the Three Towns. There are at least twelve "public" cemeteries in this relatively small area, plus several private ones; and they illustrate what the poet has written: "All that walk the earth are but a handful to the tribes that slumber in its bosom," I have visited every one of these "God's acres," and have been impressed in looking at the inscriptions over the last resting places of many whose names have appeared in these pages. In early days elaborate tributes were sometimes inscribed on the headstones. That custom has fallen into disuse, to the regret of the searcher for evidence; but the dates on the stones, though not always infallible, are generally useful; and the record of the buried person's military service or other connection is sometimes our only source of fact. Thus, a document printed by the Hillside

Rest Cemetery Association, Inc., of Bombay, records that Asa Jackson died there on Sept. 11, 1844, aged 85 years, 6 months, 25 days; that "at an early age he became a soldier and for 5 years, 6 months, fought and obtained and enjoyed republican rights until 1812, then he obeyed and for 1 year and 6 months served his country as a soldier . . ." My personal interest in cemeteries began when, as a small boy, I used to prowl the old Salmon Street cemetery adjoining my father's home, sometimes in search of lilies-of-the-valley or other flowers that had sprung up from plants placed there in earlier years. One day I spelled out with amazement the carved inscription "Delight M. Gunn Stark Quaw," the unusual name of a pioneer mother; and I am pleased to find that the tall round stone is still there, 70 years later, within the iron fence around the family plot.

The oldest cemetery in the town of Westville is located on the Man homestead, about a mile and a half from Westville Centre, on the Constable road. It was the private burial ground of the Man family, who were the town's most distinguished citizens; and there is a marker erected by the state attesting to the active service of General Alric Man and his brother Albon in the War of 1812. Both are buried here. A few years ago, through the initiative and civic pride of Frank Holden, then supervisor, the old cemetery was cleaned up, headstones adjusted, fence repaired; and soon afterwards, after some sharp words with the heirs, the cemetery title was transferred to the town.

The Briggs Street Cemetery is on the road that bears that name, in the northern part of the town. Among those buried there are: Henry Briggs (1746-1828) — he was the pioneer; William P. Briggs (1831-78); William McFadden (1792-1871); Philemon Berry (1791-1862) and his wife Lucy; William Stiles (1801-56); John Wiley (1812-95); William T. Adams (1814-1901); Eben Hoyt (1845-1912); John Learmount (1812-76); Frank Waggoner (1834-1920); Peter Martin (1743-1815). The cemetery is very well kept, and is still occasionally used.

Coal Hill Cemetery is on a farm-to-market road, south of Westville Centre. It is neatly fenced, very well cared for,

and is still freely used. John L. Rowley and other members of the Rowley family are buried there.

Riverside Cemetery is beside the main road, near Westville Corners. Due to its accessibility, it is much used and visited. Mrs. Colburn Grant and Katherine, daughter of Ambrose Cushman, left monetary bequests for its upkeep. There was a Presbyterian church nearby, which was pulled down about 1900. Among the graves found here are those of David Freeman (1793-1881); Jno. Ordway (1794-1860), Mrs. Solon Storm (daughter of Chandler Ellsworth), Asa Clark (1803-96), and many others of leading Westville families, including Hadleys, Ferrises, Chapins, Shipmans and Wrights.

Where the soldiers who died at French Mills during the War of 1812 were buried, it is now impossible to say. There must have been a considerable number of them; it is recorded that six died on a single march to Malone, and "20 others were too sick to be moved." Hough, quoting from Mann's Medical Sketches, written at the time, says: "The deaths . . . at French Mills, excited general alarm. The great mortality had obvious causes for its existence . . ." In later years, bones have been frequently found in various places, including the vicinity of the encampment on Covington Hill. Many cannonballs were found, although no cannon. Irvin Merrick once offered to start a fund as a reward for finding any such cannon. Undoubtedly, our soil contains many nameless dead.

The most historic cemetery in Fort Covington is the old cemetery on Salmon Street, which was conveyed to the town in 1819, and was used by the Protestant people for over 75 years thereafter; in fact, I found a few modern stones — e.g., Rollin Blanchard's — erected in it. The names on the stones — as far as they are legible — are almost a roll call of the pioneer families. Among them are: Mary Williamson, 1792-1828 — "born in Connecticut"; Eliza, wife of Duncan Gillis, died 1826; Sappho, wife of Abial Stiles, died 1833; Jerusha, wife of Loren Hitchcock, died 1830; David McMillan, 1740-1818; his wife, Sarah Stearns; Dr. Roswell Bates, 1788-1869 — "Born in Hareland, Vt.";

John Dewey, 1803-79; Isaac Hollenbeck, 1813-79; Stephen Paddock, 1766-1849; Dr. Ora F. Paddock, 1796-1867; Dr. Solon Wyman, 1799-1860; Burrell Howard, 1795-1855; and many McElwains, Chapmans, Boyds, Buchanans and other pioneers. Unfortunately, quite a few of the stones have fallen or are buried in the tangled grass; others are illegible until they are well-scraped; including among these, large monuments to: () Quaw, A. M. Lincoln and Alexander Lincoln, which certainly deserve a better fate.

There are several fences — some still strong — that enclose monuments of individual families; in some cases, saplings that were planted, to protect or ornament the plots have grown into sizeable trees. It would appear that the grounds do not receive regular care, except for mowing the grass, which is a difficult task. I regret that I could not examine all the graves, which is a real pilgrimage in Fort Covington history. I note that the stile, over which pedestrians used to enter, has been removed.

Elmwood Cemetery, which is the modern Protestant cemetery, is situated on the Fort Covington Centre road, just at the village limits. It is a level, attractive piece of land of 25 acres, a gift from Donald McPhee, who at one time owned the present Cusson farm which adjoins the cemetery. Mr. McPhee died on the farm on June 26, 1897, having made the presentation in the same year, together with a request that he be buried "under the pine trees." This cemetery, unlike the Old Cemetery, is well-maintained by a board of trustees. A bronze tablet was erected in 1919 — a gift from James Farlinger, Alan and David Streeter, and William G. Kelsey — bearing a suitable dedicatory inscription. The cemetery contains many dignified and imposing stones, and much of its area is now taken up. There are a number of stones which were obviously moved here from elsewhere. Prominent among these is the monument to Alex. Gardiner, 1782-1862, bearing also the names of four children, and a lengthy verse; beside him, his brother James — "born in Burnbrae, Scotland, 1796." Among early burials here were Sheridan ("Shed") Kimball, 1860-89; George A. Burns, 1818-97; John McKay, 1825-97; Robert

R. Chapman, 1816-99; Benj. Babcock, 1823-1901 — “married Ellen Short, 1831-1916”; Joseph A. Shannon, 1816-1898; John McElwain, 1823-87; and Charles Frye, 1829-95 — “married Harriet Rich.” Other familiar names of people buried later include those of Harrison Ashley and Elmer Ellsworth — they married sisters, Sarah and Alice Earl; George Farquhar, Allen and David Streeter, Abram S. Creighton, Alex. (Capt.) Smallman, E. O. Forbes, George Campbell, R. J. Grange, Frank Bucklin, Fred S. Hutchins, Simon Gleason, Amos Arell, Dan Grant, Robert Smart, Fred Reynolds, Allen Matthews, Solon Storm, Thomas Brill, Drs. Gillis and Blackett, Fred and Dewitt Hutchins — they married Nellie and Grace Southworth — George Connell and his wife, Charles Moore and his wife Anna Smallman, Dr. Anderson, Isaac Lyons, John Webb, Walter Ordway, J. Leslie Cummings, William J. Donovan and his wife Miriam Paddock, Benjamin French, Linden K. Stiles, and a host of others who are well remembered.

The original Catholic cemetery of Fort Covington consists of about an acre of land surrounding St. Mary's Church. It has quite a number of fine trees, and, although rather uneven, it is well carpeted with grass, and, undoubtedly, was the scene of much pious and social visiting by the parishioners, before and after Mass in the adjoining church. It has a rather bare appearance now, for many of the monuments were taken up, about 1900, when the church was being renovated, and, unfortunately, they were not replaced; they have since disappeared.

There were some interments here, after the new cemetery opened. These were parishioners belonging to families who had several members buried there; also, some bodies and headstones were transferred to the new cemetery.

Among those interred here — who can be identified — were Thomas Mulvihill and family; Thomas Foley (1817-1908) and family; Mr. and Mrs. George Mainville; Michael Scanlon (1801-88); Nicholas Boyea (1841-1921) — “perpetual care,” his wife, Angeline Parker; Patrick Holden (died 1865); William McKenna (1796-1857) — “a native of Tyrone”; John W. Barry (1806-83) his wife, Ellen

Condon; Mr. and Mrs. Patrick McQueen (d. 1865); John O'Keefe (died 1844) and others.

St. Mary's Cemetery used today, is a beautifully situated expanse of 25 acres, at the west end of the village and looking down over the Little Salmon. It was opened in 1883; the first adult buried there was James Madison, son of Patrick Donovan. It is now becoming quite filled, the portion bordering the Hogansburg road having been opened last and already nearly all taken up. The cemetery is managed by a board designated by the pastor; George Quenville is collector.

Near the center of the grounds is a commodious vault, frequently used in winter to receive the bodies of deceased parishioners. Quite near it is the dignified tomb of the beloved pastor, Father J. Roderique Lauzon, who died in 1944.

Needless to say, the monuments — of widely differing types according to their periods — represent every Catholic family in the town, and many in Bombay. To name only the families, there are found here graves of members of old families still represented in the parish — Denneen, Dempsey, Courtney, Cosgrove, Condon, Taillon, McCarthy, Derouchie, Brockway, Holden, Barney, Lacombe, Dupree, Fish, Fullum, McCann, Smythe, Mainville, Santann, Roussele, LaClaire, Gratton, Mayhew, Ghostlaw, Basha, Black, Shannon, Chatland, Michaud, Laporte, Lafleche, Jock, Charette; and others of families once prominent, but no longer represented such as Cahill, McQueen, McKenna, Lowe, Scanlon, Donovan, McMorrow, Keefe, Reardon, Shane, Long, Meade, French, Bean, Cotter, Kinsella, Hart, Parker, Almond, Costello, as well as families coming into the parish in recent years.

Scattered over the Three Towns were formerly a number of "private" or family cemeteries, ante-dating, in most cases, the building of churches. Two still in existence are the S. W. B. Wilson and the James Blood cemeteries, both near Fort Covington Centre. The Wilson cemetery is difficult of access, but may be reached from the McCabe homestead. This cemetery is still used occasionally. Among its occupants

are: Seth Blanchard (1773-1832); his wife Lorinda Wales (1778-1853); their daughter Sally (1799-1862); Seth W. B. Wilson (1818-1908); his two wives; David Reed (1814-1901); his wife, Catherine Lafleur (1828-1905) and Jane Wilson Costello (1859-1926), "practical nurse," mother of James Costello (1886-1959), whose wife Jane McElwain is buried in Bombay.

The Blood cemetery is across the road from Jim Blood's former home, the stone house at Fort Covington Centre. It has not been used in a long time; it contains, among others, the remains of Charles Blood (1784-1851) and his wife Clarissa Baker (1786-1866).

Bombay contains — besides the large Indian Catholic cemetery at St. Regis — a Catholic cemetery in Hogansburg, and another in Bombay: and Protestant cemeteries on the Hogansburg-St. Regis road, and at Bombay Corners, and at South Bombay. The last-named is probably the oldest.

St. Patrick's parish cemetery is just east of Hogansburg, on Route 37. It contains many fine monuments, but is not very well kept. In it are the graves of Beros, Bradleys, Lantrys, Crokes, Murphys, Wards, Monahans, Parkers, Sullivans, Foleys, Dalys, Almonds, Kernans, Mullins, Connellys, Milmoes, Dawsons, Emerys, Grows and other long-time residents. One interesting stone was erected to the memory of Bridget, wife of Matthew Ward (1789-1879); she was a native of "Gailoia." (Galway?)

The Protestant cemetery at Bombay Corners adjoins the Methodist Church, and is well cared for. Its proper name is Hillside Rest. Here are interred many former residents of the town, including members of the Barlow, Cross, Reynolds, Shields, Tracy, Eldred, Francey, Sweet, Blanchard, Rockwood, Mansfield, Cramer, Nettles, Sears, and other families. Charles H. Barlow (1828-1906) married Mandania Sears; their son, Charles H., Jr. (1861-1930) married Eliza J. Smith; two sons — one a casualty of World War I — and a daughter are buried here. William C. Shields (1866-1942), John Shields (1869-1940), Gertrude Hollenbeck (1868-1940), Loren Eldred (1798-1873), Thomas

Cross(1757-1843), his wife Harriet (1765-1856), H. K. Cross (1843-1924) and Charles R. Matthews (1859-1927) are among the well-known inmates. Alvin Russell, a well-known farmer of Dog Hollow, married Julia Maloney and brought her family from Ireland. He was born in Salem, Washington County, New York, in 1820, and died in Bombay on March 12, 1912. He was the grandfather of Mrs. Lyle Shoen.

There were also family cemeteries in Bombay, one of which, known as the Shanley cemetery, was plowed up when Route 95 was rebuilt through Cold Spring, against the violent indignation of the workmen.

On the St. Regis road are buried, among others, Joshua McGee, Anna Burgat and several Schoffs.

The Catholic cemetery in Bombay is much younger than the others. It stands south of the Corners, on the newly-built Moira road, and has a well-kept appearance. It holds the remains of members of the old families of Durant, Reardon, Hallahan, Rouselle, Murphy, Mulvana, Scanlon, Yaddow, Quenelle, Tremblay, Becknauld, Ghostlaw, Doonan, Foley and others; also, of Elizabeth Stowell (1857-1953) — "married Jere Casey, born in Ireland"; they lived on the farm now occupied by Jere Savage; also, of G. Herbert McElwain (1886-1944) married Emma Dineen; also of Catherine Elliott (1894-1950); also, of Alphonse Latulippe (1879-1959), one of the French Canadians who moved here from Ste. Agnes.

The South Bombay cemetery contains graves of the families of Rockhill (from Westville), McCune, Hoyt, Niles, Dyer, Parr and others.

At Cooks Corners there is a Protestant cemetery, still used, which contains bodies of Edwin S. Bean (1826-98), his wife Lucinda; Abner A. Wade (1829-1903) and his wife.

There is a wealth of knowledge and sentiment connected with these cemeteries that I have not been able to present here. I am sure that the names I have given will recall to many persons and incidents that were significant

in our history. It may be said of most of them, as Gray wrote in the *Elegy*:

“Far from the madding crowd’s ignoble strife
Their sober wishes never learned to stray;
Along the cool sequestered vale of life
They kept the even tenor of their way.”

I must not leave the subject of the cemeteries without mentioning the marble-cutters whose work provided the monuments that still are a striking feature of our landscape. At the turn of the century, Ambrose Cushman, who lived and had his workshop on Center Street, west of Salmon, made and erected most of the stones that were being put up here at that time. A man of energy and industry, the excellent quality of his work is attested by the fact that much of it is still in prime condition. His sons, Silas and Bert, did not continue their father’s trade, and it has been many years since the Three Towns had a marble-cutting establishment. C. A. Griffin had a marble-works on Center Street, which he closed and moved to “Brush’s Mills,” sometime before 1871. George A. Cheney’s marble works are listed in the *Gazetteer* for 1862-3.

In recent years, most of the monuments have been ordered from firms in Malone, occasionally one from Gouverneur or another St. Lawrence County town.

Prominent among the business people of the towns were the undertakers — or morticians, as they would be called, today. Fort Covington had two undertakers contemporaneously, for many years — James Courtney, who was patronized by the Catholic families, and Frank Spencer, by the Protestants. But each frequently had clients of the other’s faith; the two men were good friends, who held each other, and were held by the whole community in the highest esteem. Mr. Spencer (1852-1940) was in the furniture business for about 55 years, part of the time in partnership with Alexander Premo. His office, show-room and embalming shop was in the same building, which is now owned by Roger Brewer. When he retired in 1927, and moved to

California for health considerations, it was estimated that he had conducted at least 2,000 funerals in the Three Towns.

Mr. Courtney was in business perhaps even longer, and may have conducted even more interments. His business was also situated on Water Street, and in his later years, he took into the business his son-in-law, Frank Cosgrove, who, after Mr. Courtney's death, enlarged the plant and dealt extensively in furniture and appliances; Mr. Cosgrove was an energetic and popular man, who was a leader in town activities. The store is still an undertaking and furniture business conducted by Erwin Phillips.

Other undertakers who have at times done business in the area include James Phillips of Massena — whose wife was Jennie Bannon of Ste. Agnes, a niece of Mr. Courtney — and John Murphy and Mrs. Nina Chapin, of Malone. A very attractive and well-equipped funeral parlor has recently been opened in the historic Joel Lyman house on West Chateaugay Street by Elton Cappiello and his partner MacKenzie, both practical morticians.



"Dick" Cappiello, George French, and Charles Dempsey With The Aetna Fire Co. Truck around 1890

21 OUR PROFESSIONAL MEN

One of the striking features of the life of our people has always been the accessibility of our professional men, whose medical, legal and informational services not only prolonged, but enriched the lives of our people and kept them in touch with the outside world. Probably no rural community has surpassed the Three Towns in the faithful attention received from its doctors, lawyers, pharmacists and dentists as well as of the clergymen and teachers whom we have already described.

As early as 1821 there was a post office record of a Dr. Luther Taylor at Fort Covington, possibly a relative of Parsons Taylor, a merchant at Hogansburg in 1816. It is recorded of Jno. Ordway, the pioneer of western Westville, that "he was not only a farmer, but a practicing physician." Heman W. Tucker was the first physician in Hogansburg, and Elvin K. Smith in Bombay. Doctor Tucker is listed in the tax list of 1825, but no location is given. There was a Dr. Brownell in Hogansburg in 1819. Dr. Sally Tucker is noted in the state map of 1825, about where the Grange Hall was later. She was one of the original members of the Baptist Church, and is also listed as Sally Moore, wife of Charles Moore, son of John Moore, the carpenter, and the Hurd history — 1879 — lists Mrs. C. Moore as a doctor. If these entries refer to the same person — and the unusual name would make it probable that they do — then Fort Covington had a woman doctor for a large part of the nineteenth century. Solon Wyman (1799-1860) was another physician. Silas W. Wilson's name was recalled, a few years ago, by a visit here made by some descendants, who said he practiced here before 1860. Dr. Richard Morey, 1812-51, practiced in Westville. He was active in the Masonic Order. There were doubtless other pioneer doctors — "to fortune and to fame unknown" —

whose names have disappeared, but who, proceeding according to the dictates of common sense, and aided by hearty constitutions of patients, saved and prolonged the lives of many people. Such a patient was Jno. Smith, whose "operation" is described in Dr. Macartney's book, under the heading of "General Practice."

Better remembered and of greater influence than any other of our early practitioners was Dr. Roswell P. Bates (1788-1869), concerning whom almost every old settler had many a story to tell. He was a man of forceful personality, and strong convictions, which he never hesitated to declare. Many of the younger doctors for miles around owed as much to Dr. Bates as to medical schools for their training. Interestingly enough, Dr. Bates served a term as County Judge. Dr. Bates was a graduate of the University of Vermont.

His principal contemporary was Dr. Ora F. Paddock (1796-1867), who came from a Massachusetts family, as did his wife, Sarah Goldsmith, of Amherst. On March 16, 1822, Dr. Paddock was appointed by Governor Dewitt Clinton to be surgeon's mate of the 66th Regiment of Infantry of the State "during our good pleasure." This may well have signified the beginning of his medical career, as the document does not style him a doctor at that time. A few years ago, I had an opportunity to examine some of Dr. Paddock's library; I found in the collection some medical volumes that were printed in Edinburgh, Scotland, in the 18th century, when Edinburgh was considered a chief center of medical research.

The leading physician in Westville was Dr. Lauriston Berry, whose home and office was at Westville Corners, near the Trout River road. Like most of the professional men of that day, he did not confine himself to one activity. In partnership with William Cramer, he owned a brickyard, which did a thriving business for three years in the 1870s. He was supervisor of the town for six years, and a principal figure in securing the erection of the Presbyterian Church. The family moved west in 1901 for health reasons. Dr.

Weeks was another practicing physician in Westville in Dr. Berry's time; he lived in the first house north of the Wiley Hotel.

Dr. William Gillis (1822-94), a Scotchman, born in Cornwall, Ontario, practiced in the Three Towns during the last 45 years of his life. He received some instruction in a medical school in Caledon, Vermont, but most of his training was derived from Dr. Bates. Dr. Gillis was a giant, physically, very imposing, and in his continual travelling over the district with horse and buggy or cutter and sled, in winter usually wrapped in a big shawl outside his overcoat, he became an unforgettable landmark. Skilled in both medicine and surgery, he had very positive opinions on many other topics, especially party politics, which our people took very seriously, in a day when for a responsible man to say he "would rather be Red than dead" would probably have invited the latter! Dr. Gillis was an ardent Republican, and at various times filled almost every town office, as well as several terms as school commissioner. As he had benefitted from Dr. Bates' tutelage, so he, in turn, gave to Dr. Macartney a chance to begin his own career.

Dr. James Macfie (1840-1919) was of a very different type. He was also a Scotchman, who came to the Fort in the '70s, after the death of his first wife. He was a quiet man, of studious disposition, and became a disciple of Henry George and the Single Tax, though ordinarily a Democrat in politics. In the Census Report of the town of Bombay for the federal census of 1880, as compiled by H. K. Cross, Dr. Macfie is listed as the attending physician in the case of nine deceased; five other doctors cared for ten.

Dr. James Smart (1858-1919) was a native of Fort Covington, a brother of Robert G. Smart. He was a graduate of Dartmouth College. A retiring kind of man, he was dignified and friendly but not inclined to enter into political or civic contests. His office was in the rooms above the store at the corner of Water Street and Covington Lane, now occupied by Harold Lamay. Dr. Smart late in life married Miss Marian Thompson, preceptress in the Academy.

The three doctors just described kept Fort Covington and the surrounding towns well attended to, medically, during the second half of the century, and there were other doctors, including William Kingston and Shannon of Hogansbrg, and C. W. Arthur and S. C. Lang of Bombay. Sewall Gleason of Westville, John Doty and Daniel B. Wyatt announced themselves as physicians and surgeons. (One of them "keeps constantly on hand a . . . peculiar salve, warranted to cure all diseases from small pox down to bed bug bite.")

The work of a country doctor in those early days involved much that is not included in the routine of their successors of today. First, it involved endless travelling over difficult roads in all kinds of weather. The doctor's horse and cart, sometimes his faithful dog, could be spotted for miles. He was usually the recipient of well-meant, although occasionally embarrassing hospitality. His instruments were not always accurate, hospitalization was practically unknown, and the attendance of local midwives and practical nurses was almost indispensable; many a life was saved by the service of such women as Mrs. Edward McCaffrey, Sr., and Mrs. Henry Rouselle, whose halos, we may be sure, are more than the equivalents of the nurses' caps they never got. Operations had sometimes to be performed on kitchen tables, by the light of kerosene lamps. Whiskey was often depended upon to alleviate shock and restore strength; I am not aware that any of those doctors were "tee-totallers;" and I am equally sure that none of them abused the use of liquor. They availed themselves of such medical societies and literature as their strenuous life permitted, but were not slaves to theory. They usually knew the patients and their families quite intimately; knew, too, who the imposters and "dead-beats" were. The very terms they used have partially become antiquated — "phthsis" has passed from "consumption" to "tuberculosis," and "quinsy sore throat" is probably "tonsilitis." The old-time conditions and many typical experiences of pioneer doctors are often mentioned, and many of them described in the pages of the book "Fifty Years a Country Doctor" by the Three Towns' most widely-known

physician, Dr. William Macartney, a man of the next generation.

For most of the half-century following the death of Dr. Gillis, the medical practice of the area was efficiently covered by Dr. Macartney, Dr. Blackett, Dr. Rockwood of Bombay, and Drs. McConnell and Kingston of Hogansburg — all of whom were not only competent physicians, but active and public-spirited men of affairs.

Dr. William N. Macartney (1862-1940) was the son of an Irish father and a French mother. His older brothers, George and James, his sister Sarah, and his nephews and nieces, were all prominent for years in Fort Covington; and although the family name has died out here, it will long be remembered. William was a graduate of the local Academy, and, after deciding to take up medicine as his life work, he went to New York City to obtain his medical education at the University of the City of New York. Returning home after an internship in Bellevue, he started practice in 1889, and was the means of making the North Country and its people known to thousands who would otherwise not have known of it, through his book, which appeared in 1938. He retired in 1930. Dr. Macartney was an outdoor man, a lover of horses and wild life, and his favorite diversion was boating and fishing on the nearby St. Lawrence. Under a rather gruff exterior, he possessed a keen sense of humor and a pungent style of expression, which has delighted thousands of readers. His wife, a Southern lady named Caroline Claghorn, was his lifelong assistant and companion, whom he describes in the dedication of his book as "the perfect teammate."

Dr. John William Blackett (1873-1943) was a native of Ormstown, Quebec. He attended McGill University, where he received the degrees of B.A. and M.D. He settled in Fort Covington right after his graduation, and followed his profession for 45 years in all the surrounding country. He had a large Canadian clientele, and was especially popular with the St. Regis Indians, to whom he was tribal physician, by government appointment, for many years. In August, 1940, he was honored at a great Indian pow-wow

there, was conducted to the platform occupied by braves in full regalia, was adopted into the Mohawk tribe and given the name of Su-sako-tsien-tha, which means "Healer." He joined in the tribal dances and songs, and received a beautiful peace pipe over 30 inches long, spirally colored in red and blue.

Dr. Blackett was a man of infectious friendliness, a good story-teller, whose ready wit was much admired by a host of friends. He was an active Mason and Forester, and belonged to several professional societies. He was at different times Grand Trunk physician, school physician and a member of the staff at Alice Hyde Hospital in Malone. He married Mabel, youngest daughter of "Jim Y" Cameron, who survived him until 1960. There were no children.

Dr. Herman Sheldon Rockwood came to Bombay from Hopkinton about 1870, after graduating at Dartmouth and the medical school of the University of Vermont. He enlisted in the Union Army when fifteen years old, served two and a half years in the Civil War, losing his right arm. He taught school for a while on the Moira road, while getting his practice started. He met and married a neighboring teacher, Martha Adelaide, daughter of George Davis. They had four sons, two of whom, George and Henry, were leading citizens of Bombay for years. Dr. Rockwood, although a staunch Republican, was several times elected supervisor of Bombay, a Democrat town, and was once chairman of the County Board. The doctor was a close friend of Dr. Macartney, with whom he often worked.

Dr. Charles McConnell practiced in Hogansburg, beginning about 1875. He obtained his start through the financial help of Alfred Fulton, Sr., and became popular both with his professional associates and the public. He married Anna Bowker, and died in 1938.

As the established physicians grew old, efforts were made to attract a young doctor to locate in the area, and Dr. F. G. Ronan and Dr. Joseph Koch opened offices in Fort Covington — the former in 1956, the latter in 1957 — but the more lucrative reward of city practice and the avail-

ability of hospitals drew them away. Dr. Koch settled in Saranac Lake, and Dr. Ronan in New Jersey.

Fortunately, however, for the Three Towns, the fine record of the older physicians and the genial atmosphere of life in the Fort prevailed upon two daughters of Dr. Macartney and their families to fill the gap. Elin and Caroline Macartney married doctors — the former Dr. Bruce Smith, the latter Dr. Philip Gorman, and Mrs. Gorman herself became an M.D. They returned here to practice, and speedily succeeded to the good practice of their predecessors. Unfortunately, Dr. Smith was killed during military service in World War II, almost at the start of what promised to be a long and bright career. His sons, Robert and Bruce are continuing the family tradition with great success; Dr. Robert is official physician to Salmon Central School and to the Chevrolet plant at Massena. Dr. Gorman has a large clientele, and his son David is making a promising start in medicine. Thus, the Three Towns remain, as always, well cared for.

An indispensable adjunct to our medical service is the work of our druggists, who have always been a vital part of our economy. Ora F. Paddock had a drugstore as early as 1828, and it was still in business in 1862. Dr. Gillis conducted a pharmacy for many years in the store below the residence of his grandson, Gillis Cushman, whose daughter Frances still lives there. Dr. Macartney gained valuable experience there; and among others who worked there are Charles W. Howard; also John E. Rogers, who went on to become a pharmacist in Malone, and eventually became very successful in Pawling, New York, where he still lives; he and his store there were pictured in a cover story for LIFE magazine during the Dewey campaign of 1944.

Across the street from the Gillis drugstore was that run for years by Henry Clay Congdon. Others who practiced pharmacy there for short periods were John W. Murray and Pierre Hyde.

After Dr. Macartney bought the Denneen block, he used the large first floor as a drug store, in which William J. ("Billie") Rouselle was behind the counter for 35 years,

until his sudden death in 1940, just a few weeks before the doctor's death.

Further down Water Street was the drug store of Walter S. ("Wat") Parker, one of the most colorful characters who ever lived in the Fort. Wat never allowed public opinion to curtail his freedom of expression, and there were few who could cope with his sharp tongue. His stock consisted largely of proprietary medicines, and it was told, perhaps with teasing exaggeration, that when, during the Spanish-American War, federal revenue agents arrived to affix stamps to Wat's goods, they found in his stock medicines that had been there since Civil War days!

Fort Covington's present day druggist is Otto Kohout, who came from Long Island in 1944 and whose store is on Water Street in the former T. Chisholm and Bert Grant building. Mr. Kohout has been quite active politically, as a Democrat, and is currently a member of the Town Board. He is married to Annabelle, daughter of Almadus Smith and lives in a modern house on South Water Street. His son Paul and family live in the adjoining house.

Dentistry was originally performed by doctors, or even the barbers, one of whom, who advertised his proficiency in that respect, being William Handly, father of the late Arthur Handly, attorney, of Malone. William Handly was a barber in the Fort in the 1880s when he met and married Jane, sister of Arthur Moore, of Ste. Agnes. He took his young family west, to Livingston, Montana, where he died. The children were then brought back East, and Arthur and his brother Walter were raised in the Moore family.

The senior dentist in Fort Covington, and the longest in point of service, was Hollis W. Merrick (1846-1933) who had his office for many years in his house on west Chateaugay Street, just beyond the railroad track. Dr. Merrick was a "nervous" man, who found relief from the strain of his exacting profession in politics and civic interest; he held many local offices at once time or another. He was married to Harriet Cole, and had one child, Mrs. James Lockwood, who lives in Florida.

George C. Anderson came to Fort Covington in 1897 and practiced dentistry there until his death in the 1940s. His home was on Chateaugay Street, opposite the Episcopal Church, and his office was there, and, later in the block on Water Street over Bert Grant's store. He was an extremely nervous man, and frequently required vacations. He was an expert rifle shot, and won many medals. His great recreation was to go in his boat on the "big river." He married Lillian Brown, a teacher in the Academy — a calm woman of rare charm. They had twin children — Florence, who has taught for years at Yaphank, Long Island, and Franklin, now living in Malone; also a daughter Barbara (Mrs. Glen McElwain).

The resident dentist at present is Dr. Raymond Foote, who lives in the historic Man home in Westville. Dr. Foote is very competent, and an active man in various fields.

It seems strange, in view of the former great dairying and livestock interests of the Three Towns that no resident veterinarian has been active here.

Since the bulk of legal work in a rural community involves the constant use of public records and attendance at courts which are held at the county seat, it is inevitable that most of the lawyers hereabouts would make their homes at Malone. Nevertheless, the Three Towns have had not a few lawyers, among them several of distinction. These included, in the early days, Jabez Parkhurst, born in Sharon, Vermont in 1785. Graduated from the University of Vermont in 1810, he was admitted to the Bar in 1814, and came to French Mills in 1815. In 1837, he built the stone house where Mrs. Hayes now lives, and died there in 1865.

He was a man of aggressive character, who was a leader in every worthwhile local enterprise during many years. He was an abolitionist, and interested himself in freeing escaping slaves; in fact credible rumors had it that on occasion he personally drove a wagon in which fugitives were conveyed across the Line. Along with Daniel Noble and George A. Cheney, he was pictured in cartoons of that time as a "nigger lover," and David Streeter, who lived when a boy on Covington Street, opposite Parkhurst's home, used to say

that he distinctly remembered seeing black people around that place. It must be said, however, that Fort Covington was not a station on the "underground railroad," which ran considerably further east, through Constable and Burke.

Jonathan Wallace was also prominent in these early days. He came to French Mills from Essex County immediately after the War of 1812, of which he was a veteran; he died in 1856. He was supervisor more than once, and a Presidential elector in 1840.

Henry A. Paddock (1823-84) was a son of Dr. Ora Paddock and practiced law in Fort Covington until 1864, when he moved to Malone during his term as county judge, to which office he was elected in 1859 as a Republican. His wife was Mary, daughter of George B. R. Gove, and they started housekeeping in the brick house still standing on Gove Street, just west of the Catholic cemetery. That was the birthplace of their son, Frederick G., who was a leader of the Franklin County bar, county judge and surrogate, who died in 1931.

Another prominent legal family long connected with Malone are the Kilburns. Henry G. Kilburn (1824-99) came from Vermont to Fort Covington in 1859, and lived there until 1870. His grandson, Hon Clarence E. Kilburn — for the past 20 years representative in Congress for this district and ranking Republican member of the powerful banking committee of the House — believes that his grandfather occupied a house, still standing, on the Paper Mill Road. Congressman Kilburn's father, Frederick D. (1850-1917) went to school at Fort Covington Academy, and during his long career in politics, banking and the law, kept up a close and friendly connection with our Three Towns.

Contemporary with Paddock and Kilburn in practicing law in Fort Covington were Samuel H. Payne; his son, Walter; and Thomas B. Watson. Samuel Payne had been there for many years, and had once been customs officer, from which office he was removed for allegedly giving aid to the Canadian followers of Louis Papineau in the "Patriots' War" of 1837; that stand did not lower him in the esteem of his fellow townsmen, who were almost unanimous

in support of the French insurgents. Walter H. Payne was district attorney 1857-60.

A little later — around 1880 — George W. Davis and John Carr advertised as having an office on Merchant Street, Bombay, specializing in “cases in U. S. Courts and Admiralty and Maritime Jurisdiction.”

In Hogansburg, Charles A. Burke, who later moved to Malone and practiced there for years, had a law office in the 1880s.

In December, 1883, there came to practice in Fort Covington one of the most gifted and attractive personalities that our towns have ever known. This was Madison Chalmers Ransom (1858-1947), universally known as Matt C. Ransom, who remained for the next dozen years an outstanding lawyer, not only here but throughout the county. Mr. Ransom was a native of Mooers, Clinton County, of a worthy but not affluent family; and he was in the old fashioned sense a self-made man. He graduated from Albany Law School in 1883, and came directly to Fort Covington, where he remained until 1896. He won several important cases involving the newly-opened Massena Springs and Fort Covington Railway. He also conducted the defense in two murder trials, his clients receiving minimum sentences. Like Frederick Kilburn, Mr. Ransom eventually transferred from the law to banking and moved to Malone; but he and his wife always retained a warm affection for Fort Covington and never gave up their membership in the Presbyterian congregation there; when the new church was built in 1886, he was one of the three largest contributors to the fund. His wife was Henrietta, daughter of N. H. Burch and granddaughter of Richard Grange; he had no children. Mr. Ransom was an ardent Democrat, and led the local “unterrified” in the stirring campaigns of 1888 and 1892.

Earl W. Scriptor arrived in Fort Covington in 1904, and practiced law until his death in 1948. Though he never aspired to be a legal luminary, and was usually ready to sidetrack the dry technicalities of legal procedure to the pursuit of social relations, he performed satisfactorily the necessary legal work of his clients, and took a helpful part

in many worthy local activities. He had a host of friends, and his home on the bank of the Salmon was a center of hospitality. He married Mary Barlow, who predeceased him; there were no children.

Robert B. Regan arrived in Fort Covington from Potsdam in 1938, and has been in practice here since. He lives in the imposing James Macartney house on Water Street, which he has recently redecorated. He is attorney for the village corporation, which office he has conducted efficiently and without serious criticism for a quarter of a century. A man of serious judgment, he enjoys the confidence of his townsmen. His wife Margaret, sister of Michael C. O'Brien, prominent real estate man of Brooklyn, is active in social and church matters. Their son, Robert, Jr., and daughter, Patricia Spencer, though not living in the Fort, are among the most prominent recent graduates of our high school, and are frequent visitors here.

The law firm of Mills & Mills is composed of James F. Mills and his wife, Marie Vercesi, who is the first woman to practice law here. Both are graduates of the University of Alabama, to which they went from their homes in downstate New York. Mr. Mills is a Republican in politics, and is at present chairman of their county committee. He was formerly attorney for the St. Regis Indian tribe. The Mills family lives in the large house at the corner of Chateaugay and Pike Streets — the old A. T. Stewart home — and have their office there. Mrs. Mills is active in public affairs, and was recently elected to the Board of Education of the Salmon Central District.

A most useful group of professional men in this neighborhood have been the editors and publishers of the various newspapers which have played a striking part in recording the doings of our people and the course of our history throughout the years. There have not been many periods when Fort Covington did not have a newspaper, and sometimes, two, and I feel that few communities of its size have ever been as well served in the faithful and reliable recording of its daily life and the deeds of its children, even when far removed. I have made constant use of the old

newspapers available to me, yet I realize that many details are lacking that could be supplied, had I the opportunity to peruse the many missing pages. It is my ambition that a file of our newspapers, as complete as possible, be deposited in a well-maintained library for permanent preservation.

The first newspaper to be established — the FRANKLIN REPUBLICAN appeared in 1827.

It was started by T. K. Averill, who sold it the next year to Samuel Hoard. Hoard continued it until 1833, and had for his assistant Francis D. Flanders, the elder of two brothers who were outstanding writers of vigorous prose and marked men in a day when forthright expression was perhaps more common than today. Francis Flanders started the FRANKLIN GAZETTE in Fort Covington in 1837. He moved it in 1845 to Malone, where it continued to be published until 1911.

Its last publisher was John Law, who married Mary, daughter of Capt. James Sawyer. They had one son, Frank, who showed no interest in the newspaper business; he married Annie Binan, who taught school in Fort Covington. Frank worked for many years in the Malone post office; he died a few years ago in Saranac Lake, leaving no children, and the files of the paper seem to be inaccessible.

Francis Flanders, his wife and younger brother, Joseph, all shared in publishing the GAZETTE and writing its editorials, and they never pulled their punches. The Flanders brothers were vigorous writers, and their stirring editorials were gospel to many Democrats in the north county. Mr. Law was a milder man, but his paper — a sheet of great physical size — had much influence.

Other papers published in the Fort included the Salmon River MESSENGER, the St. Lawrence Valley RECORD — discontinued in 1876 — the SUN, and the ADVERTISER, 1910-17. The publisher of the ADVERTISER was Frank T. Bucklin who put out the paper in the little building on Chateaugay Street, next to the Gillis drug store. The final issue of the ADVERTISER appeared on August 15, 1917, and contained, besides the usual news, a brief, dignified announcement of the paper's discontinuance. Mr.

Bucklin, remained at the Fort, conducting a job-printing business until his death in 1929.

Ransom Rowe, Sr., a virile man, keen observer and forceful writer, was the founder of the FORT COVINGTON SUN. He came to the village from Athelstane, Quebec, where he had started a paper, which did not promise success; so he promptly discontinued it after eight issues, and sought a more congenial home. The year was 1885; so, the SUN, which has pursued its charted course ever since, can boast of the ripe old age of 77 years. It can boast, too, of a clientele that is actually nation-wide, composed of old Franklin County residents who look forward to its weekly coming to relieve their feeling of nostalgia and keep them informed on the happenings in the old neighborhood and the doings of old and new friends. The SUN has had only three editors: Ransom Rowe, Sr., (1885-96); Isaac Lyons (1896-1929) and Howard Lyons (1929-date).

Isaac Lyons was a man of convivial nature, who won the confidence and support of his neighbors, the local businessmen and Republican party leaders. The SUN has always been Republican in national politics, but has uniformly been fair in dealing with people of all creeds and parties. Howard Lyons, its present publisher, with the assistance of his genial wife, (Marion Wilson) has steadfastly adhered to the policy of finding out painstakingly and presenting concisely every detail that could be obtained about the daily happenings of the whole area. In addition to telling the significant happenings, glad or sad, that develop from day to day, the SUN never fails to link that news with former occurrences that explain its background. It is evident that the SUN's program satisfies its widely-spread readers, for rarely does an issue fail to contain letters of sincere appreciation, often accompanied by bits of personal news that are welcome to many other readers.

During the opening years of this century, there were published a series of articles that aroused much comment — not all of a favorable nature — among its readers. The letters purported to tell the doings of a local group known as "The Doolittle Club," which held forth at irregular inter-

vals in Hamilton's grocery store. Under thinly-disguised variations of names of well-known local men, the characters told many frank and embarrassing escapades of the Fort's leading "Sitesans" of those days. Thus, in the issue of the SUN, July 14, 1910, the local Artemas Ward narrates how the Doolittlers visited the "wicked citie" — Montreal — on an excursion, and how there "Fred Hutchins entertained a young lady whom he met on the train, and . . . when he found it was all free, he hunted her up and done the square thing by her." In other long letter published in the ADVERTISER of Dec. 6, 1911, "P.D.C." writes of exploits of the Hutchins brothers, William Smart, George Higgins, Jim Macartney and "Charles of the House of Baskan." "Jim Macartney is in Malone attending to the two afares . . . he is only getting four dollars a day . . . so much work we are afraid will end in something serious . . . he goes to the picture show most every night and sometimes takes a ladie partner. Andy Mack has worked himself down so thin there is nothing left but cords and eyes. . . . Last fall . . . we were alarmed . . . for fear he would blow off the stack and get drowned. . . . His wife says there is no danger. He is so little he won't sink, and the wind will drift him ashore."

Our local papers have been almost entirely family enterprises. Practically all the work connected with them was done by the editors and their families. Of the few others who were engaged for a time on them, and who thus got the smell of printer's ink into their blood, two who should be mentioned were Jimmie McDonnell and Leslie Ryan. Jimmie's family lived on Salmon Street in the 1880s, but moved, with the McMahan and Curtin families, to California, where Jimmie was later engaged in newspaper work in Dinuba. Leslie Ryan, whose wife was Lottie Miller of Ste. Agnes, settled in Champlain, New York, where he became prominent in politics and publishing, being the proprietor of the NORTH COUNTRYMAN, and where he died in the early 1950s.

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NEW FACES AND OLD

Fort Covington reached its population peak during the Civil War, and its diversity of industry exceed by far anything modern times can show. The "Gazetteer and Directory for Franklin and Clinton Counties for 1862-63" issued by Hamilton and Child, of Ogdensburg, gives the following details:

The town, whose area — 21,978 acres — was the same as now, had a population of 2,757, located in 509 dwellings. The number of farms was 270. Assessed valuation, real and personal, was \$414,942. School attendance was 682.

General merchants included Kimball and McPherson, John A. Quaw, Donald McPhee, William A. Streeter, Charles B. Minkler, William Hogle, Nathum H. Burch, and Thomas W. Creed. D. Gillis & Co. sold groceries. There were two hardware stores, run by Philo A. Matthews and Richard and Davis Grange. Michael Meade was the liquor dealer. George A. Cheney ran a marble works. There were five dealers in boots and shoes: Grindal Streeter, Allen M. Lincoln, John McKay, James Fay and Alex Saye. Elam C. Burch dealt in hats, caps and furs. George C. Cross & Co., were confectioners. There was a newsdealer — Alex Smallman; a music teacher, Ellen Matthews; and four millinery establishments — Margaret Grange, Elmira Curtiss, Mrs. Betsy Crangle, and Misses Hickey. James W. Kimball was Supervisor, and Joseph Spencer the postmaster. There were five lawyers, three clergymen, and five physicians, whom we have named elsewhere. Among the artisans were listed eight blacksmiths, two boatbuilders, two brickmakers, five carpenters and joiners (joiners were ranked a little more skillful than carpenters), two architects, a gunsmith, three harness makers, four coopers, a chair maker, ten masons, two millwrights, two painters, a tallow chandler, a tanner, two tailors, and lastly, but first alphabetically, an ambrotypist. "What is an ambrotypist?" "A photographer who

makes pictures on glass by the collodion process." In the '60s and '70s, that recently-perfected method of portraiture had reached northern New York with the force of a craze, and practically every family hastened to procure "Daguerreotypes" with the natural-looking tints in the cheeks; many of those old pictures survive, and are more lifelike than the photographs that eventually displaced them.

The making of portraits and landscapes was not a new interest to the border people. In 1838, Hiram Powers, later to become famous as one of America's greatest sculptors, travelled through our neighborhood, painting portraits, and he secured commissions from several of Fort Covington's leading families of that day. Among those whom he painted were Mrs. Job Congdon, Mr. and Mrs. George Cheney, and members of the Paddock family. His Cheney portraits now hang in the art gallery at Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

In 1860, Fort Covington had two hotels, the Northern (William H. Kief(sic), proprietor), and Spencer's Hotel. Each had its livery stable, and there was also a stable owned by Philo Matthews and Hannibal A. Merrick. The oldest hotel, sometimes referred to as the Terman hotel, stood on the bank of the Big Salmon, at the west end of Center Street bridge; its proprietor in 1813 is said to have been Alexander Campbell, and there General Covington was brought to die.

The historic old building at the northwest corner of Chateaugay and Water Streets, which was torn down in 1960 to make room for the new bank, was originally a hotel, conducted in 1813 by William Stutson. General Jacob Brown made it his headquarters for three months during the terrible winter campaign described above. In 1817, the first town meeting was held there, the proprietor then being a Mr. Spinner. Later, it was run by Lemuel E. Warren, James Clark and William Cleveland. Modern generations knew it as the Matthews hardware store.

Joseph Briggs built a hotel north of the village, almost on the Line, in 1816, and it was called by his name for some forty years. There was also a hotel on West Chateaugay Street, at the end of the Academy grounds, kept by Harvey Clark from about 1819 to 1827, when it burned. From its

windows, Nathaniel Colver wrote: "deer could be seen every morning and evening, playing in the nearby meadows."

But the two hotels which Fort Covington knew in the post-Civil War days, and around which much of the public life of the village revolved, were the Spencer or American House, opposite the Methodist Church, and the Northern Hotel or Stafford House, on the northern corner of Water and Mill Streets. They were both very popular, and had a good-natured rivalry, which extended also to John Taillon's International Hotel at Dundee Lines, which, however, had the great advantage of legitimate liquor selling.

Both hotels dated from 1830 or earlier. The Northern Hotel is still standing and doing a little business, but the American House and its commodious barns were pulled down in 1934, and replaced by James Dempsey, Jr.'s new home. Proprietors of the Northern included J. O. Allen, Alexis Dutcher, Oliver Paddock, F. W. Stoughton, David and Robert Stafford, J. McElwain, Samuel McElwain, Tom Lee, Dan Tyo, King Kellogg, Mr. Simes, Walter Shinn. Of these, perhaps the best remembered are the Staffords, because of their long and stubborn struggle to get permission to sell liquor, and thus get a legitimate share of the lucrative trade flowing to Dundee. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stafford lived in a beautiful home opposite St. Mary's rectory.

The American House was equally busy, and was a great favorite with "drummers" — travelling salesmen — who formed no slight part of hotel trade in those days. In its later years, under Dan Grant, it advertised and boasted of its "Special Sunday Dinner, during the summer months;" and, remembering Dan's charming and genial sister Hetty as I do, I am sure the boast was justified. Among other proprietors of the American House were Joseph Spencers (Senior and Junior), Samuel Browning, N. Hollenbeck, Fitch O'Brien, Duncan Cameron, Alex. Gardiner, and Charles Kellogg, whose bluff manner, big dogs and unconventional stories intrigued all listeners in the early automobile era before he returned to his native Fort Jackson. I am sure that "Polly" Cameron, now the dignified Mrs. H. John Farquhar, often recalls her happy days in the hotel, when a bus, driven

by Dan Tyo, used to make two trips a day to connect at Dundee with the steamer going to the Islands.

It was customary for the two hotels to insert in the SUN the roster of their weekly patrons. Thus, in the issue of July 4, 1895, we find guests from Detroit, Syracuse, Jersey City, Cornwall, Montreal, Lancaster, Ogdensburg and New York City, as well as people from our neighboring villages, registered at the American House, while the Stafford House had mostly Franklin and St. Lawrence people.

Westville has had at various times a number of taverns and inns. Freeman Bell ran one on the Trout River road, which the American army occupied briefly as its headquarters in 1813. There were several hotels near Westville Corners, the first of which was known as "the plastered tavern," and which stood until 1856. Its proprietors included a Mr. Hyde, Abner Doty and Philemon Berry. Another hotel, at about where Walter Ordway's store was recently located, was run by Ebenezer Leonard, and later by Thomas McCullough. Nearby stood a hotel which Henry G. Button owned, and his son-in-law, Joel Leonard, ran. Capt. Nelson Wiley bought the building in 1851, and owned it until 1868. The Wiley family continued to receive occasional guests for many years. Elisha Hollister had a tavern at the Center in 1864-65. Curtis Downer had a hotel on the Whiskey Hollow road. Jacob P. Hadley built a tavern in early days on the road to Malone, in the open country, near the town line; what patronage it enjoyed would be hard to say. Thus, Westville has in past days entertained many transients whose modern successors whiz through the town in a matter of minutes. There are two taverns in Westville now — the Elm Circle, at the Center, and the Zombie, at the Corners.

At Bombay Corners, John Dickens (or Diggins) kept a tavern in the 1820s. Later, there were two well-known hotels — the Spillings Hotel and the Russell House. The latter was built by Thomas Donaldson, was run by J. S. Kellogg in 1897, was later purchased by the Bombay Grange, which remodelled it into a hall and business offices. It was destroyed in the fire of 1921. The other hotel, operated for years by Jeremiah Spillings and his sons, John and

Joe, was burned down in 1936. There is now a neat restaurant called the Old Country Manor, located in the former home of William Shields. The proprietor is Ward Cosgrove. James Tobey had the Hotel Windsor here in 1897. There was also a hotel at Dog Hollow, and one at South Bombay.

Hogansburg has always been known as a hospitable, as well as a beautiful village, and its hotels have been outstanding from its earliest days. Their operation was conducted chiefly by two families whose names are almost synonymous with Hogansburg — the Murphys and the Lantrys. William P. Mosley and Mortimer Russell were early tavern-keepers. William Hogan, quick to realize the value of a comfortable place to receive guests who might be possible land buyers, had a hotel built in 1818. Among those who operated it, later, were Lemuel Warren, Captain Gaines, Henry Combs, J. W. Elliott (1876), and Edward Cunningham. In 1914, it was bought by the Murphy family, who have conducted it since. At the present time, it is conducted by Thomas Murphy and his sister Theresa, who keep it in excellent condition, and enjoy a most attractive home with beautiful grounds. Across the river there is another building that was formerly a hotel built by the father of Gurdon S. Mills, and conducted later by Larry Babcock, Arthur McGinn and Murphy.

The list of businessmen cited above shows that the traditional Yankee families who had been in charge of Fort Covington affairs were still in the saddle in 1860, but a number of later arrivals now began to take prominent places, and continued to be leaders for the next half-century. Among these were the Kimball, Kelsey, Bean, Herrick, Longley, Streeter, Ballard and Hutchins families.

James W. Kimball, who came in 1845, was a successful merchant until 1863, two-term chairman of the County Board of Supervisors, and Member of Assembly. He died at the early age of 47. His son, Sheridan ("Shed") married Nell Cowan, and they had one son, James.

Timothy Taft Kimball conducted a general store in the building now owned by Mrs. Beaudette. There he taught the mercantile business to William J. Donovan, who suc-

ceeded him there for many years. Mr. Kimball was a man of keen mind, great industry and scrupulous honesty, very abstemious in his habits, and little interested in matters not connected with his business. His wife was Jeanette Ballard. They had a son, William and two daughters. Mrs. Wyman, and Fanny, the last of her family.

The Kelseys were descended from English who came to Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1632, to be with their Puritan pastor, Thomas Hooker. Later, those Kelseys moved to Connecticut, then to Vermont, and finally to Potsdam, New York. Charles Kelsey (1792-1852), married Sara Allen of the family of Ethan Allen of Ticonderoga fame. Their oldest son, Ezra, married into the Kimball family in St. Lawrence County and became a dairy farmer. His son, William Giles (1849-1922) did not wish to follow farming, so he came to Fort Covington about 1867, and engaged as a clerk in the store of his uncle, Timothy Kimball. By thrift, and the help of a friend, he was able to establish his own store, on Chateaugay Street, across the street from that of his uncle, and he remained a leading merchant until his death in 1922. He also engaged in retailing coal and market produce, and his scale, in front of the store, was known and patronized for many miles around. He married Sara Pierce Herrick, and their homes — first, near the bridge and later on West Chateaugay Street — were centers of gracious hospitality by their kindly hostess. Their children were Elmer S., William Cecil, who conducted his father's store until 1945, and Olga (Mrs. Arnold H. Robinson), who lives in Florida. Elmer never married. Cecil graduated from Syracuse University and married Ethel V. Sharkey of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They lived for several years in the large white house on the Dundee road, which was later the home of the Salmon River Yacht Club. They have two sons, William K., living in Albany, and Harry N., in Schenectady.

George W. Herrick married Adeline Ballard, and came to Fort Covington about 1860. Adeline Ballard had twelve or more sisters, she being the second oldest; another was Mrs. Nancy Holden. There were two brothers, Allen and Ben. Allen was the father of Walter Herrick, the Fort's Beau

Brummel of the early 1900s. Walter was the nearest approach to a fashionable "man of the world" that Fort Covington has ever seen, although there have been possibly two or three competitors. He lived half of the year in New York City, and the milder months in his modest but well-equipped house on Water Street, near Center. A shrewd observer, who admired him from a distance, with the observing eyes of youth, writes: "I can see him now in his smart turnout, the black coat of his horse shining like satin — he employed a groom for his high-stepping horses — and his gloved hands deftly manipulating the reins. He would arrive at Stanley Island to dine, wearing a grey brocaded satin waistcoat with his dinner clothes, and a flower in his buttonhole." Walter died in 1924, the last of the name.

Allen S. Matthews, son of Philo A. Matthews, continued his father's hardware business, and, with the capable assistance of Fred Reynolds, carried on a big trade in all kinds of building materials, in coal, and plumbing. He lived in the large house on south Water Street, where Mrs. Dr. Smith lives now, and where Mrs. Matthews gave instruction in music to successive generations. Mrs. Matthews, who was Ellen Short, died in 1928, and Mr. Matthews in 1915.

The Streeter homestead on Covington Street, now the residence of C. Walter Smallman, was occupied by David and Emma, children of Grindal Streeter. The four Streeter sons, David, Washington, William and Allen, had prospered in Chicago, and were popularly rated as millionaires. However, their wealth did not help Fort Covington noticeably except the local churches to some extent. In the Covington Street house were assembled an assortment of rare and beautiful objects of art and souvenirs of world travel, many of which, after David Streeter's death, went to William Macartney. Marion C. Ruddick, granddaughter of Henry Congdon, recalls that as a girl she often played in the Streeter home, and once danced in the town hall, wearing a Spanish shawl and clicking castanets from those curios, and that Mrs. Streeter, Sr., went to see her dance.

George A. Cheney had four sons and two daughters. His son, William, fought through the four years of the Civil

War, and two other sons served shorter periods. His daughter Mary was teaching in a private school in Richmond, Virginia, when the Civil War broke out. Terrified by the popular outcry there against Yankees, she sought to buy a ticket for home, but was turned back. Eventually, she escaped on a passport signed by Jefferson Davis, which document is now in St. Lawrence University library at Canton, New York. Her sister, Abbie, married John Brown, and lived in Canada until his death. She then returned to Fort Covington with her daughter Elizabeth, repossessed the Cheney home — where Howard Lyons lives now — and lived there until her death. Both mother and daughter were very musical and Bessie, as everyone called her, taught music in the Academy for years. She married J. Leslie Cummings, principal of the Academy, who later became principal at Clayton, New York, where Bessie is still living.

S. E. Blood's home on the riverside beyond the railroad was occupied by him until his death, after which his daughter Minnie moved to Chicago where she lived for many years. The property passed to the Burch family, who had formerly lived on Covington Hill. Elam Burch's sons, Charles and Arthur, settled in Minneapolis and prospered. Charles used to return, summers, and occupy the Blood house, which he had renovated and beautified.

Norman Bean came to Fort Covington from Vermont — probably Brandon — sometime in the 1860s; his name appears in the 1870 census. He cultivated several farms in the town, including one on the Creighton road belonging to his sister-in-law, Harriet (Mrs. James C.) Ryan, whose husband died in 1888. Norman and his wife were of the best type of citizens — simple, friendly, hard-working people, good neighbors and hosts, whose name deserves to be perpetuated. They spent their declining years in the house on the Fort Covington Centre road now occupied by William Mainville. The only one of their four children who was connected with the Three Towns was Harriet, who married J. Newton Davis, and lived for a time on the Longley farm. One of Harriet's children is D. Alton Davis, a summary of whose distinguished career appears in a later chapter.

John H. Hatton arrived in Fort Covington about 1850, coming from Brandon, Vermont. His ancestors were English, and had migrated to Beverly, Massachusetts, and later to Vermont. Mr. Hatton spent a long life in Fort Covington, where he was in close contact with every aspect of village life; so, his account books and his observations, which he wrote up in the form of "Reminiscences" in 1896, are of considerable value. He was a watchmaker, his store being on Chateaugay Street in the little building that adjoins Amie Mainville's store. He lived on Water Street, a short distance from his shop, and his daughter, Flora, who never married, was his housekeeper after her mother died in 1892. He was eccentric, but keen and scrupulously honest. Everything was kept in perfect order, and, if possible, annually repainted blue, Mr. Hatton's favorite color, which was applied even to the neatly smoothed end of the woodpile that stood at the side of his house!

Hatton's account book starts on Dec. 5, 1849, and terminates on October 31, 1887, but it is not continuous — i.e., the book I have seen is not. It contains — carefully and legibly penned — dozens of familiar names of the town's citizens and a few from adjoining towns. Specified opposite each name is a notation of the work done, and the charge, which is by no means in round numbers, and by today's standards is small. Examples are: "Benjamin Pedler — to repairing watch, 12 cts; S. Raymond — to rep'g a watch, \$1.00; D. Barker, to rep'g a watch, \$1.12; Mrs. Mears — to rep'g 2 brooches, 37 cts.; Webb, to rep'g a clock, 75 cts.; P. Daly, to rep'g jewelry, 31 cts.; A. Blake, to rep'g a watch, \$5.00; D. Stowell of Moira, rep'g watch, 37 cts.; Gove, to rep'g specs, 12 cts.; D. Cameron, of Canada, rep'g watch, 63 cts.; A. Stiles, \$5.00; H. A. Paddock, two clocks, \$2.87; Old Frenchman, 25 cts.; Miss Cheney, rep'g jewelry, 44 cts." Mr. Hatton seems to have done considerable business in loaning money — at least, there are entries up to \$25 for "Sums received for lent money," some of it to out-of-town people whose addresses Mr. Hatton scrupulously recorded. Mr. Hatton died in 1913.

Two brothers of the Hutchins family of Constable and Westville settled in Fort Covington, and were active businessmen here. These were Dewitt and Frederick, who operated a successful retail lumber business. Fred was also a town official, and is often mentioned in the Doolittle letters as a man-about-town. The brothers built and lived in adjoining houses on West Chateaugay Street. Among Hutchins descendants who formerly lived in the Fort and still visit here occasionally are Ada (Mrs. Allen Williams), of Olean, N. Y., daughter of Fred; and Guy, son of Dewitt, who lives in North Dakota, where he has prospered. Mrs. Charles Smiddy of Fort Covington, was Florence Kelley of the Hutchins family. Mrs. Williams is widely known in musical and civic circles in her home city, where her husband is president of the Board of Education.

James and John Will moved into Fort Covington from Canada, and lived here for some years — James in the village, where his daughter, Kate, graduated from the Academy and became Mrs. Thomson; John Will bought the former Robert Creighton farm, where he died in the 1940s.

Among the new families who came into Westville during this period were the Rowleys and Starks. John L. Rowley (1827-1903) was a native of Ohio, who came into Westville in the 1860s; his wife was Matilda Orton of Bangor. At different times he operated a sawmill, a butter factory and a cheese factory. This last he built at Westville Corners. It was later taken over and operated by his son John W., who sold it in 1902 to Baker Rockhill, Mr. Rowley moving to the Solon Chapin farm. John L.'s oldest son, Edward, whose wife was Sarah Moore, moved to Malone, where he operated a drug store for some years, eventually moving to California, where he died. John W. married Alfreda Ellsworth and they had two sons, one of whom, Earl J., took over the farm. Earl married Ruth, daughter of John Wright, and they still live in Westville Centre, and are active in many good causes. They have three children, one of whom is Mrs. Roger Avery, of Westville. John W. married, after the death of his first wife, Elizabeth Clark,

by whom he had four children. The large 13-room house still standing at the top of the Forge Hill was built by John L. in 1875, from lumber mostly sawed in his mill.

The Rowleys have been staunch Republicans, and have held many government offices. John L. was supervisor in 1869; Edward was supervisor for four years, and sheriff of Franklin County. John W. was supervisor for six years, and overseer of the poor for several years. George was town clerk for thirteen years. He is remembered as a fine athlete, an unbeatable card player, fond of pets and with a great sense of humor. Earl J. was a justice of the peace for 40 years, retiring in 1960. Many descendants of the Westville Rowleys still live in eastern cities and states.

Alonzo and Orville Rhoades, brothers, came to Westville in 1851 from Vermont. They conducted general stores — Alonzo at Westville Corners, where he was the last postmaster, and Orville at Westville Centre. Alonzo was a justice of the peace, and performed most of the legal work in the north end of the town. He married Julia Williams, and their son George still lives in Westville. Orville sold his store to Walter Ordway about 1908, and then for some years continued in business in Malone and North Bangor. His son Orla, who died in 1933, helped organize the I. G. A.

The period of the 1870s and '80s saw the rise of the Shields and Sears families as the business leaders of Bombay, along with Charles Matthews and the Reynoldses. Alex. Sears was born in Greene County in 1805; his wife was born in England. Their son Thomas A., born in 1860, became an enterprising and successful merchant, whose general store at Bombay Corners competed strenuously with Shields Brothers, and both drew large patronage from a wide area, even from across the Line. Thos. Sears was elected to the legislature in 1894, and served until 1898. He moved to Rome, N. Y., and was active there until his death. Alvin Fuller, grandfather of Mrs. Lyle Shoen, invented and patented an anti-friction journal box, which was the precursor of improvements now used in vehicles and machinery. Financial need compelled Fuller to sell his patent, but his ingenuity should be remembered.

In Hogansburg, the leading families — in addition to the Murphys, Lantrys and Beros — were the Fultons, Bowkers, Growes and Kernans. Alfred Fulton Sr. was agent to the Indians, a Democrat leader, and warden and the chief support of the Episcopal church. Henry Bowker ran the store now occupied by Michael Lantry, son of "Little Tom." Henry Bowker, Jr., married Etta, daughter of John Fitzgerald. Anna married Dr. Chas. McConnell. Charlotte married Frank Kernan, and their daughter is Mrs. Gladys Yops. Charles J. Grow lived on State St. He had thirteen children, of whom only one remained in the town. Sidney C. Grow conducted the store — now closed — last run by Mr. McKinnon. The Fulton store remained in the family until 1919, when Alfred Fulton Jr. sold it.

While new families and individuals were coming into the Three Towns, and some of the older families were still keeping in the forefront, there started an emigration wave to a friendly area that has continued and has made that area almost a second Franklin County. It seems to have started when Tom Cotter sold his farm near Frye's Corners and went to Chicopee, Mass., in the 1880s, where he obtained an agreeable and profitable job with the then new and booming inter-urban street railway. When news of his good fortune came back, others were inspired to follow his example, and for some years, Tom's hospitable home was a "way station" for Franklin County men who got a start which resulted in their making western Massachusetts their home — often permanently. Quite a number returned north after a while, and many of those who did not were accustomed to making almost annual visits to the old home. Springfield, West Springfield, Chicopee, Chicopee Falls, Longmeadow, Holyoke, even as far away as Boston, Hartford and Worcester, are dotted with homes of people from the Three Towns as well as other towns of northern New York; and the success many have had warrants our believing that "down east" has profited substantially from our emigrés. I do not profess to enumerate all who have lived in the Springfield area. I mention only those who come to my attention, either through personal acquaintance, cor-

respondence, or news notices, and I present them in no particular order; and I beg forgiveness for those overlooked.

William McQueen Sr., and George McQueen Sr., rose to important positions in police work, and their families are living there to the present time. Both Ora Paddock, Jr. and Ezra, his brother, raised their children in Springfield. Rollin Blanchard moved to Springfield, and his three daughters lived there. Bert Grant lived there for some years, and brought home a wife, who lived for years quite happily in the Fort. Jim Thomas and his wife, Grace Howard, had a very comfortable home in Springfield, where Grace had a thriving real estate management. George Donovan was in great demand as a foreman of tobacco farms in the Connecticut valley. Oliver Turner and his brother Gilbert worked many years in West Springfield, where Oliver still lives. Will McMaster and his wife, Mary Duhesme, brought up their family in that city. Garret Hart spent his latter years in the Haines family. Tom Creed, Jr., travelled over Massachusetts for a Boston firm. Fred Howard lived in Chicopee Falls for 40 years. James Shannon became wealthy in the construction business. Dr. Holly Cotter is a son of Jim Cotter, a restaurant owner in Boston. David Kingston's son became an alderman in Springfield.

Others from the Three Towns who went "down east" included John Brill, and his wife, a sister of John McDonald; Gilian Tuper, who lived twelve years in Chicopee Falls; also Bert Ellsworth; Robert Agen; and others of the Condon, McCaffrey, Labraff, LeFleur, Labrake, Benn, Freeman, McDonald and other families.

Thus, our Three Towns have close ties with the western Massachusetts communities, almost their second home.

23 AFTER THE CIVIL WAR

The termination of the Civil War marked the beginning of a relatively slow period in the Three Towns. For a period of some 20 years there was no noticeable change in living conditions, nor in population. The prices of farm products remained low, as did the wages of labor. Trading was largely a matter of barter, and merchants had to extend credit freely and to wait for the maturing of the crops. It must have taken hours of every merchant's time to prepare the long detailed "store bills" which most families incurred. A study of some typical accounts furnished me by the families of Mrs. Patrick Holden, Patrick Donovan and Levi Gleason shows significant details. Thus, the first entry for Paris green sold to Mrs. Holden by T. W. Creed is in June, 1878, indicating that about that time the dreaded potato bug was making its appearance; whips and whip lashes for horses, lanterns for use in stables, were frequent entries; codfish and salmon — not in cans — were regularly bought; salmon was ten cents a pound, tea, 50 cents, flour \$1.50 a sack, codfish, eight cents a pound; buckskin gloves, \$2; plug tobacco, ten cents; an axe, \$1.25; crackers, twenty-five cents for two pounds. The only credit items were for wood — "453 rails @ 3 cts. each, rafter girts and sleepers, \$8.56." Cash was occasionally advanced to the customer and charged on his account; due bills were sometimes paid by the merchant. A bill to Levi Gleason from Premo and Spencer, furniture dealers, covering 1873 to 1889, lists some charges as "high chair, \$1.50; one coffin and box (1876), \$8.00; bedspread, \$5; mattress, \$7; one coffin and box (1886), \$25.00." Credit is given for "108 lbs. beef @ 5 cts. lb. (Mar. 13, 1877), 25 bu. potatoes @ 30 cts. (1877); 1100 lbs. hay @ 6 cts. a lb. (1881)"; interest is charged on unpaid balance.

Items unfamiliar today include "deaconskins (skins of very young calves) sold for \$1 each; cockeyes, 25 cts. each; paper collars, 25 cts. a box." Patent medicines had a wide

sale, not only in the drugstores, but by travelling salesmen. These men travelled the roads for years, bringing to the housewives pots, pans, sewing materials and "notions" of every description, and often received meals and room in part exchange for their wares. Among the popular remedies whose names were household words were Castoria, Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, Lydia Pinkham's Compound, and Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. It may not have been the curative properties that made these mixtures so popular in this prohibition territory. As John O'Hara writes in "A Family Party": "Some people took Peruna who wouldn't permit you to mention the name of Old Overholt, but the one made you feel just as good as the other."

The money crops were potatoes, butter and hay — and, to a limited extent — wood, but the once-great forests were gone; only the "woodlots" and "sugarbushes" being saved. Gone, or rapidly going, were the tanneries and the sawmills. The Three Towns not having obtained railroad facilities, potatoes and butter were hauled to Moira or Bangor by "double teams" of horses, over the rough and sandy roads — one trip and return being a hard day's work. In the homes, most of the butter was made in the cellars by the housewives, many of whom had first assisted in milking cows in the barns, and in taking the milk into the cellars. There it was stored overnight in "Cooley cans" — tall metal cans provided with a glass window at the bottom and a faucet for drawing off the milk, leaving the cream in the can to be collected for churning, which was done in barrel churns turned by hand power — a back-breaking job. The milk had to be carried from the barn into the cellar, strained and poured into the churn. The butter, after churning, must be salted and packed, the cans washed and scalded. The contrast in temperature between the cool cellar and the summer heat outside made the women's work hazardous to their health.

In winter, when there was only a little milk, a dash churn was sometimes used. The skim milk was fed to the stock, particularly to calves, at which the boys and girls could make themselves useful. There was always plenty for

the children to do, from picking up potatoes to coring and stringing apples on winter evenings, to be made into the once-famous dried-apple pies, which, with home-made sausages and other meat delicacies, relieved the monotony of winter fare. Canned goods — a by-product of the Civil War — had not yet made much of an impression.

The selling of hay was usually a side issue. Almost the only farmer who made money on it, regularly, was Thomas Dupree, who made a practice of marketing his hay, fertilizing with manure bought in the nearby village, and not feeding the aftermath in the fall. Stacks of hay and straw were a characteristic sight on every road.

Potatoes were universally grown, and were of excellent quality. The same could be said of garden vegetables. Nearly every home, even in the villages, had a sizeable garden, producing peas, lima and string beans, carrots, parsnips, beets, tomatoes, radishes, sweet corn, cucumbers, melons, pumpkins and other small crops. Not too much attention was paid to the orchard fruit, which was mostly apples of the hardier varieties, and in the fall a great deal of cider was made.

The making of starch from potatoes was a big industry for many years. Farmers hauled the potatoes to factories which were operated by water power. The process is concisely described as follows: Potatoes were stored in a huge cellar, from which they were gradually transferred into a hopper four feet square at the top and fifteen inches square at the bottom. This was connected with a grinder, turned by the water wheel. Water was placed in the hopper, and the solution of water and potatoes was pumped up into large vats, where it was continually stirred by a wheel. The waste — called pumice — fell off the sides into drains, which carried it to the river. When the operator was satisfied with the grade of starch, the water was pumped out, and the starch shovelled into dryers, where it was dried as quickly as possible, using stoves. After the starch was thoroughly dried, it was put into cotton bags or into barrels, and delivered to retailers.

A great deal of starch was made in Westville, where Samuel Coggin had a factory before 1875. George Hale had

a mill nearby, which had been a shingle mill, earlier. The two mills ground as much as 100,000 bushels of potatoes a year, which meant about a million pounds of starch. James A. and William W. Stockwell also built a starch factory, and there were others in the town; they furnished the only profitable market for small potatoes, which could usually be bought for ten cents a bushel.

In Bombay, a starch mill was built on the Little Salmon, a mile southeast of Bombay Corners, by James Parr, and another on the Little Deer River by Wilcox and Adams. The former passed to the ownership of Oren Jenkins, who, in 1875, reported an investment of \$4,500 in real estate and \$500 in tools; the mill had 45 tons of starch, valued at \$4,500; four men were employed at \$20 a month, each.

In the 1890s, the market was taken over by Western cornstarch, and by 1905, our starch industry was no more.

Hops were raised to a considerable extent in Westville beginning about 1825, when Alexander Walker raised 1200 lbs., which he sold in Montreal for 50 cents a pound. Moses Brooks and William Prue — two early French settlers — were hop growers. The hops were of excellent quality, ranked by competent judges to be of the highest quality of any grown in the state, and were much in demand by brewers of beer and ale. The largest hopyard in this part of the country was at Cazaville, Quebec, operated for many years by the Vass family. They gave employment in the fall to a good many people from the Three Towns who looked forward each year to going there for a few weeks, not only to earn money, but also to "have fun," which, according to their testimony, was of a quite unrestrained nature. The Smallman-Vass farm employed as many as 2100 pickers, two-thirds of whom were Indians, many from St. Regis. Owing to the propensity of the Indians to get drunk easily, they were not allowed to bring any cash with them, and were paid in vouchers, which were redeemed in cash when they were leaving.

Hops were raised in hills five or six feet apart from which the heavy vines were trained on poles erected in straight rows across the yard. There was a big demand for

hop-poles; the papers carried advertisements for them and the "store bills" often recorded credit allowed for them. When the vines were sufficiently long, they were twined around the poles and tied; they then extended of their own accord, exposing the pungent hops to ripen in the sun. At picking time, the vines were cut, three feet from the ground, the poles were pulled out of the ground and taken to the pickers, who stripped the catkins and packed them into long wooden boxes; pickers were paid according to the number of those boxes they filled in a day. Hop-growing required constant cultivation and the cleaning up of the yard at the end of the season; re-sharpening and storing of the poles, etc., involved much arduous work.

The nearest thing to a speculative "boom" that the Three Towns ever experienced was the excitement caused in the 1880s by a sudden tremendous rise in the price of hops, which was caused by a blight on the hop crop in England.

In September, 1882, the market opened at 50 cents a pound, and rose steadily to \$1.20. Most growers disposed of their stock at a dollar or a little less, making a handsome profit, and many a mortgage was paid off. Some farmers, however, gambled on even higher prices, and they lost; for economies were introduced which reduced the demand for hops, foreign supply picked up, and in 1883, the price broke in June and the new crop was quoted at 20 cents in September. Old hops fell to as low as five cents, and some men were ruined. Nevertheless, it took years for the speculative fever to die out. In 1887 the crop produced in the county was 17,000 bales — a record — but from then on, it declined steadily. During World War II, there was a brief revival of prosperity in hops, but at present, there are no hops grown in our area. In recalling the hop craze, it is interesting to note that in 1896, the title applied by the Plattsburgh baseball rooters to their Malone rivals was "the Hop-pickers from the Tannery Town."

A product of our farms which has more sentiment attached to it than almost any other is maple sugar. This area was at one time plentifully supplied with hard-maple threes, and those trees were valued not only for lumber, but

also for their graceful beauty. The sap would rise in the trunks in the first days of spring, and at that time, the trees were "tapped," and the succulent sap drawn off through wooden spouts into pails suspended from the trunk. When the sap was collected, it was boiled down into maple sugar, of color and consistency that could be varied with the skill and care of the operator. While the work of "sugaring off" required much care and perhaps the loss of considerable sleep, it was not dreaded or avoided, in view of the delicious product and the family jollity which accompanied the work. In early days, it was not a commercial proposition, but, as time went on and the outside world became acquainted with maple sugar and syrup, their price rose, and this, together with increased demand and the gradual cutting off of the "sugarbushes," have made maple syrup and sugar something of a luxury to the present generation.



The Jabez Parkhurst House, built about 1837. Reputedly a Station on The Underground Railway

24 CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

We have already seen that numerous church and political organizations were formed from time to time in the Three Towns, and most of these were well-supported and have continued for a long time. There have been other organizations which have played prominent parts in our history, and which should be recorded.

Possibly the first body of a public nature in the community was the French Mills Miscellaneous Library formed in February, 1815, with seven of the leading citizens — all of whom we have already described — as trustees. Where it was located, how it was administered, how long it lasted, and what became of its books are now uncertain; but a hint as to the last point may be derived from the fact that one of its volumes is in the possession of a former resident of Fort Covington, now living in Malone; he obtained it from Murray Martin, who bought it at the auction sale of James Macartney's belongings. Though I have been unable to see the book, I have learned that it is in good condition after 150 years, and that it shows careful directions for the care of books; e.g.: "Books to be returned the last Saturday in every month; fines for keeping a book overtime, four cts. for every 24 hrs; fine for turning down a leaf, 3 cts."; etc. This book is not a work of fiction, but a well-bound book, in the nature of an atlas.

The Masonic order has always been represented among our citizens, and many of the pioneers were loyal Masons. The Anti-Masonic agitation of the 1830s and particularly the aggressive campaign of Rev. Nathaniel Colver against the Order caused much bitter feeling, but does not seem to have produced any permanent result. Colver himself had been a Mason, as the annual return made on June 7, 1823, to the state body shows; there were nineteen members, headed by James Campbell, Master; Perrin Fisk, Senior Warden; Job Congdon, Junior Warden; and A. M. Hitch-

cock, Secretary. There were at least sixteen Indian members, and an all-Indian degree team. Aurora Lodge, No. 383, F. and A. M., of Fort Covington, is the oldest lodge in the north country, having been instituted on June 11, 1856. It met for many years in a room in the Cosgrove Block, but in 1928 it acquired the historic old Baptist Church, which has been remodelled into commodious and convenient lodge rooms. There are about 115 members. Alfred Laraby is Deputy Grand Master for Franklin and Hamilton Counties; other officers include Walter McGibbon and James Black. The associated Covington chapter No. 392, the Order of the Eastern Star, received its charter on October 15, 1906, when it started with 18 members, Orissa Hall being the first Matron. The only charter member now living — 1962 — is Mrs. Lee (Vass) Cameron of Verdun, Quebec, who, at 79, still takes a keen interest in Fort Covington affairs, and is an avid stamp collector.

Westville had a Masonic Lodge at one time, but it was transferred in 1899 to a group in New York City which was seeking a lodge having a low number. The Westville lodge was called Franklin Lodge, and it started in 1851 with Dr. Ebenezer Man as Master; James C. Spencer, Senior Warden; and John Barr, Junior Warden. It had twenty charter members, but at its termination there were only eight, who were taken into life membership in New York.

Perhaps the most active, useful and civic-minded organization in Fort Covington today is the Fort Covington Volunteer Fire Association. As the Aetna Fire Company, it dates back to 1850, and its long history has been characterized by an unbroken series of acts of helpfulness and service to innumerable people in this whole area. After a disastrous fire in the village in 1848, the businessmen decided that there was need of protection for their property, and a meeting was called, at which a committee was named to investigate and see what could be done. The committee consisted of the usual civic leaders of that day — Campbell, Bates, Briggs, two Creightons and two Mears. After much effort, a wagon, buckets and ladders were purchased. Fort Covington Hose Company No. 1 was formed in 1850, when

a single-action piston pump — otherwise described as a six-man hand pump — was bought. This was replaced four years later by a double action pump, which was operated by twenty men, ten on each side. The pump is still in existence, but “no manpower is available.” In 1887, the name of the hose company was changed to the Aetna Fire Company, and it entered on a long and illustrious career, with champion hose and ladder teams. Its members have included, over the years, every active businessman in the village, many of the professional men, when their duties permitted, laboring men and robust boys. For example, James Dempsey Sr., was foreman in 1887, William J. Donovan was secretary-treasurer, and 31 others are listed, practically all of whom I have described above. Later foremen included D. F. McCarthy, Charles Dempsey and A. J. Cappiello, who was chief in 1950, when the company celebrated its centennial. In 1900, a fine new building was erected, which is still in good condition, and which now not only stores the apparatus, but has a hall that is much used for social gatherings, a room used by the town for voting and keeping records, and a store. There are now about twenty volunteer firemen.

In a later chapter, mention will be made of a few of the more notable conflagrations in which the Aetna Company participated, but to narrate its work over the years in preventing more widespread damage would require a volume. The older residents of Dundee recall that, in the early morning hours of July 31, 1888, their peaceful little village was threatened with sudden destruction by a blaze that broke out in an ash-house near Dan McDonald's blacksmith shop. While two employees of the International Hotel loosed the steamer Granada from her neighboring wharf and pulled her to safety, and others did what they could to help, Peter Buchanan rode on horseback to the Fort to get the Aetna boys. They responded promptly, turned their hose on the seven buildings then in flames, and checked the fire. The people of Dundee were loud in their praise; “too much can not be said . . . they saved the village” said one. Dundee ladies exerted themselves to furnish refreshments to the fire fighters, who acknowledged with enthusiasm their grateful

help; Mrs. Tom Fraser, Mrs. Robert Smart, Mrs. John Davidson, Mrs. P. Buchanan and Mrs. Leo Guimon were among the "relievers." An interesting sidelight of this fire is the relative scarcity of insurance; the paper records, among others: "Capt. Alex Smallman's loss \$1,500 — insurance \$200; . . . Dan McDonald, \$500, no insurance . . . John Tyo, \$1,200, no insurance." Evidently, insurance premiums were considered a luxury — which may have made the fire company more respected.

The Hogansburg Fire Department has a new fire house of cinder-block construction, 100 by 60 feet. The company has three trucks, and is equipped for mutual aid assistance. James Rouselle was chief in 1960, succeeding Edgar Reyome, who held that post for six years. Other officers include: Hubert Lantry, president; Francis Donahue, secretary; and Syl Morin, treasurer.

Westville also has an excellent fire department organized in 1955, which has aroused enthusiastic support in the community, as shown by the fact that at its annual banquet in 1960, it was presented with a check for \$2,500 by its Ladies Auxiliary, through their president, Mrs. Donald Stowell, and in 1962, the ladies presented \$2,000. Elton Cappiello, of Fort Covington, is fire chief there and deputy county fire coordinator. Twelve complete fire uniforms were also presented by the ladies. A new steel garage has been erected, most of the work being done by the firemen. A new truck was bought in 1958, for which the town gave \$9,000. Watson Fleury served as chief from the organization of the department until 1960, when Joseph Gratton took over.

An old notebook, written in the neat handwriting and meticulous detail of John H. Hatton, treasurer, shows that from December, 1862, to February, 1875, the Eagle Hall, in the block at the northeast corner of Chateaugay and Water Streets, was managed by a body of stockholders who rented it to local groups for meetings. This company leased the hall from F. P. Briggs for \$2 a month, paid for cleaning and repairs, and at periodical intervals divided the profits. Among the groups who used the hall were the Presbyterian and Methodist churches, the Academy board, railroad pro-

moters, Good Templars, Catholic Templars, and, among individuals, "Mrs. Peak for concert — \$5; ladies on July 4th, \$5; D. Gillis for Leavitt's concert, \$8; showman for exhibition, \$5; J. Hatton for singing school." When the company disbanded, the balance divided among the stockholders (probably about 30) was \$149.16, and there were still some unpaid bills due. Eagle Hall continued to be used for public affairs for a good many years.

The St. Lawrence Valley Agricultural Society was formed in 1871, and it held five annual fairs on its grounds on the north side of Chateaugay Street, and just west of the Little Salmon. Much enthusiasm was shown by both farmers and townspeople, and the fairs were looked forward to by a large clientele. Unfortunately, the fairs could not be made to pay, and they were regretfully given up after 1875. One of the pending bills to the Eagle Treasury recorded by Mr. Hatton was "from the Agricultural Society run by Burns, Elliott and Gardiner." Dr. William Gillis acquired the land that had been used for the fair grounds, and in November, 1881, he was paid \$45 for "the use of the Fair Grounds for four months, while the bridge across the Little Salmon was being built." When, in 1883, the Society disbanded, each of the 75 life members had to pay about \$55 to settle its accounts.

The national society of Patrons of Husbandry — almost always referred to as "the Grange" — is naturally the most inclusive society in this farming community. It has successful branches in each of the Three Towns, and occupies its own halls. Most farmers belong to it, and their wives conduct ladies' auxiliaries. Meetings are held once a month, besides occasional special meetings. Each member is expected to participate at least once a year by giving a talk, rendering a musical number, or simply to entertain. Length of membership is rewarded by formal award, as by a certificate.

The Fort Covington Grange No. 937 was established on May 24, 1902, the charter members being: Charles L. Smith, Thomas Brill, M. P. Merrick, Fred Hutchins, Charles W. Wilson, George F. Donahue, Mr. and Mrs. George

Higgins, James Farlinger, Robert G. Smart, John Will, Mr. and Mrs. Judson E. Ryan, Mr. and Mrs. John W. McElwain, and Frederick Dimond. John Will was the first Master and served ten years. In 1938, the Grange bought the former Yacht Club building on the Dundee road, remodelled it into a hall, and is still there. The membership is now about 125. Mrs. John Ellsworth is a Golden Sheaf member, having joined in 1906. Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Laraby are officers of the State Grange. The Grange has given cash prizes to outstanding agricultural students, and is active in community projects.

The Westville Grange No. 1047 was organized in January, 1906, in Walter Ordway's hall in Westville Corners. There were 34 charter members, some of whom transferred at that time from the Fort Covington Grange, which they had joined to obtain Grange insurance rates. Of the charter members, two were still living in 1961 — Mrs. Charles McGibbon, of Malone, and Mrs. Lahey Pasco of California. The original officers included: Master — D. Arthur Sperry; Overseer — John E. McQueen; Lecturer — William Adams; Steward — Howard Cushman; Treasurer — Thomas Murphy; Ceres — Mrs. William Johnson; Pomona — Mrs. Fred Brockway; Flora — Mrs. Talmadge Conger. The Westville Grange had in 1961, 167 members. There is a juvenile grange with about 50 members. The largest "Grange family" was that of the Rockhills. The Fallon family was closely associated with the Grange and its affiliate, the G.L.F., which conducts dairies and feed supply stores; John Fallon has been a state officer of it, and several of his sons have been managers of G.L.F. stores in various cities of the state and New Jersey. Edmund H. Fallon is general manager of the Cooperative G.L.F. exchange in Ithaca.

The Bombay Grange was organized in 1902, under the supervision of Pat Daly of Brushton, who was State deputy at that time. Calvin Harvey was the first Master. The meetings have been held in the schoolhouse, the old Grange Hall, which was burned in the fire of 1921, and latterly in the new Grange Hall. There are at present 90 members, and the officers are: Master: Errol McElwain; Overseer, Jesse

Croke; Secretary, Mrs. Orma Tuper; Treasurer, Clarence Carpenter.

The Salmon River Yacht Club was organized in 1910, for the purposes, as stated in its Constitution, of "the encouragement of boating, yachting and navigation on the Salmon River and adjacent waters . . . the promotion of aquatic sports . . . and making summer life more attractive to residents and visitors." At the first meeting, reported in the ADVERTISER of June 29, 1910, thirty-one were listed as having applied to be charter members, the fee being \$2 each. They included most of the business and professional men of Fort Covington, as well as Judge Paddock and Sheriff Steenberge, of Malone, who reported considerable interest there. The first officers were: Commodore — F. A. Sills; Vice Commodore — T. M. Deal; Rear Commodore — E. W. Scriptor; Secretary — H. C. Claghorn; Treasurer — F. J. Dimond; Directors — E. J. Miller, E. J. Farquhar, E. O. Forbes, G. C. Anderson, W. S. H. Keefe. The village granted a frontage of 60 feet on the river at the foot of Salmon Street, to accommodate a wharf and marine railway. Many boat houses were soon built near by, and presently the large white house on the Dundee road, beyond the railroad track, was acquired for a clubhouse. In 1913, the Yacht Club was incorporated, its officers including: E. O. Forbes, Commodore (President); C. B. Myers, Secretary; W. D. Creighton, Treasurer; Rev. J. H. Gardner, Chaplain. In that year, it had 149 members, including 48 non-residents from cities as far away as Chicago, St. Louis and one from Puerto Rico (Edgar Davidson).

The "yachts" were motor boats, of which a number had been acquired in the village, and had been operated and proudly cared for by Bert Grant, Dr. Macartney, Earl Scriptor and other water enthusiasts. After the Yacht Club was formed, other residents and out-of-towners brought boats to the Club, and for a good many seasons it was a center of social life. An item in the SUN of June 25, 1914, narrates how "there were about 125 members with friends at the Yacht Club banquet on Thursday evening . . . Prizes will be awarded for the best decorated boats in the annual

parade and picnic on the Fourth . . ." As time went on, however, popular interest flagged, due, probably, to the spread of automobiles; membership in the Yacht Club fell off; and in the early '30s the clubhouse was abandoned.

Fort Covington has had two banks, each of which did a satisfactory business over a term of years; but there has often been dissatisfaction over the banking situation in the Three Towns. The first bank to be started in Franklin County was incorporated for Fort Covington in 1840 by Lewis County men, who proposed a capital of \$100,000, of which \$4,000 was paid in, in cash, and \$2,000 in bonds, to go to the redemption of state bank notes, to be issued; but the bank never opened. A second attempt was talked of in the late '80s, but was not carried out. In an editorial, the *SUN* of Aug. 6, 1903, stated the need for a local bank.

The Fort Covington Banking Company was founded in 1906, and suspended operations in 1932. It operated in the small building on Chateaugay Street now owned by Romeo Remillard, and used as a liquor store. The capital was mainly held by Macartney brothers, and the business was conducted carefully and prudently. Much of its success was undoubtedly due to the affability and courtesy of Fred Dimond and "T" Chisholm, who were in charge. When the bank, under heavy pressure, was closed by Earl Looker, the stock paid 96 cents on a dollar, and it was stoutly maintained that, had the state taken a more patient and sympathetic attitude, the bank would have paid 100 cents on the dollar.

Meanwhile, the Malone banks did steady and profitable business here, as they still do. Among local men who have had prominent and creditable connections with Malone banks should be mentioned Matt C. Ransom, Michael F. McGarrahan, and Merrill Lynch. The Burlington, Vermont, Savings Bank has carried a weekly advertisement in the *SUN* for many years.

In 1958, the Farmers Bank, of Malone, bought the property at the northwest corner of Water and Chateaugay Streets in Fort Covington, where the Matthews family, and, later, Albert Armstrong had conducted hardware business

for nearly a century. The historic old building was torn down, and a neat modern business block was installed as the Fort Covington branch of the Farmers Bank. James Dempsey, Jr., a Fort Covington boy, was brought "home" from down-state to be the manager; and the banking needs of the neighborhood would now seem to be well-cared-for.

Among other lay organizations that have existed in the Three Towns are the Grand Army of the Republic, the American Legion, the Red Cross, the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the Northland Business and Professional Women's Club, and various young people's groups, such as the 4-H Clubs, FFA (Future Farmers of America), FHA (Future Homemakers of America), and the Yorkers Club of Salmon Central School. A council of the Knights of Columbus — the first to be located in the Three Towns — was formed on April 30, 1962, in Fort Covington, with 72 members, and is named the Rev. James J. McGowan Council, No. 5306. Officers include: Hector J. Vincelette, Grand Knight; John A. Jock, DKG; Robert B. Regan, Advocate; and Joseph P. Lauzon, Harold La May and Norman LaPage, Trustees.

The most active "service club" in the Three Towns is the North Franklin Kiwanis Club, which was established in the late 1950s, and affiliated to the international organization in February, 1959, at a banquet in Dupuis Hotel, Dundee. It meets weekly in various public places such as Cosgrove's Hotel in Bombay, and keeps in close touch with national problems as well as local needs.

All in all, our citizens — old and young — exhibit a typical illustration of organizational life in rural America.

25

HAPPY DAYS

The period between the middle Eighteen-eighties and the beginning of the First World War was one of the brightest eras in the history of the Three Towns. While business volume may not have reached its greatest height then, the period was marked by an ease and general happiness that would be hard to match at any other time.

The United States was then on the gold standard, a dollar was worth one hundred cents, prices were quite stable, and so were wages — both low compared to those of today, but not a source of worry, as they are now. Taxes were watched jealously — so much so that, when the federal budget reached one billion dollars for the first time, the party in power was driven out for four years. Canadians travelled and traded freely back and forth across the Line, and trips to points further away than Malone were quite rare.

The businessmen whose activities I have narrated in the preceding chapters were each conducting his business in a steady, conservative way, careful in his collection, enjoying good credit and satisfied with modest profits. They had comfortable homes, adopting new improvements when they were able to afford them, but they were entirely unacquainted with extensive buying on credit. Their wives liked good clothes and furniture as women always do, and probably watched the fashions in Godey's or Harper's magazines as keenly as their successors of today; but they seem not to have yielded so easily to the lure of the \$4.99 or \$8.95 "bargains." Foreign news and world problems were rarely given much thought, and the astonishment that Dewey had entered Manila Bay was genuine and universal. Interest and conversation centered naturally, therefore, on our own community.

I suppose that today's generation is puzzled to know what their predecessors could have found to make life pleasant at a time when there was no television or hi-fi, no

automobiles, few paved roads or telephones. Let me assure them that there was plenty of fun in those days, and that its savor was none the less keen from the fact that it was home-made and inexpensive, not mechanically supplied and costly.

Dancing was never more popular. It ranged from home dancing to the music of the family organ or piano to the "sociables" in homes, for which expert "fiddlers" like John McDonald played and "called off" the square dances. The climax of the winter social season arrived in the formal Masquerade Ball given under the auspices of the Aetna Fire Company in Stafford Hall or Eagle Hall. "All those desiring masks can secure the same at Farquhar Bros." Music was often furnished by an imported orchestra. Zeta of Albany, and Prevost (colored) of Boston were two of the most popular, but French and Parker's orchestra creditably represented the local talent. Elaborate printed programs, listing the waltzes, quadrilles, polkas, schottisches and money-musks, and providing spaces for the names of the happy partners — these programs made cherished souvenirs of memorable nights; and I fancy that a few of them survive among the keepsakes of the older families of the neighborhood.

In winter, too, sleighing was a sport as well as a necessity, and the family "cutter" got many a happy workout, often in the evenings by the younger set. The playful mishaps when they struck one of the holes in the road called a "cahoo," involved none of the danger connected with motor collisions today. Needless to say, there was never any lack of snow to "dash through" as is rollickingly narrated in the Christmas song that is so heartily sung nowadays by thousands who have never seen — much less ridden in — a "one-horse open shay." To those who have enjoyed it, that experience is a bright spot in memory's garden.

During the months of summer, horse-racing, fishing, boating and baseball afforded fun, competition, and even material rewards to the men of all ages and to not a few of the women.

The men of the Three Towns were traditionally fond of

good horseflesh, and many enthusiastic notes survive of the fine equipages and stables boasted by William Dempsey, William Hogle, Walter Herrick, Noel Reynolds and others of their contemporaries. David Harum himself would have had a hard time outwitting Allen Smallman, Rod Russell or Tommy Lowe.

It was only natural, therefore, that the faster of these fine horses were matched against each other for prizes ranging from a ribbon to a substantial sum of cash, and that these races drew big crowds. The village fair from 1871 to 1875, and the County Fair at Malone had races especially for the local horses. In the 1880's, a half-mile track was laid out on the old fairgrounds on west Chateaugay Street, and it has been used intermittently ever since. The best-known of the local drivers in the races were "Tucker" Russell and Tommy Lowe. In winter, when ice of two feet or more thickness had formed on the Salmon at Dundee, races were held there, which were known far and wide as "the trots," which drew great crowds. The banks would be lined with hardy spectators, many of the men oblivious to the sub-zero temperatures because they were protected by coats or robes of buffalo skin, which had become common in the late '70s, after the wholesale destruction of the western buffalo herds; skins were sold here for as low as \$10 apiece. While the men watched the races, cheering on their favorites, and, at frequent intervals, patronizing Taillon's Bar, the ladies enjoyed visits with their friends in the hospitable homes of the ladies of Dundee. Etta (Fraser) Potter, of Brushton, recalls how, as a girl, she "had a reserved seat" in the front window of her father's home on the west bank of the river, and how the place would be full of company.

Fishing was practically a year-round sport. When the mullet came up-river in the early Spring — as the salmon had done a century earlier — standing room along the banks, by the lower dam, was at a premium for a few days. During the rest of the year, fishing for bass, pike and perch afforded steady pleasure to those who owned boats and could spare the time; there were even a few, like Will Chatland, who made a substantial part of their living from it.

The turn of the century was the heyday of the Smallman steamboats, when both the GRANADA and her smaller sister, the PRINCESS LOUISE, made daily trips to Cornwall and other points on Lake St. Francis, and at Stanley Island passengers could connect with the stately St. Lawrence river steamers to Montreal, or westerly to the Thousand Islands, Kingston and Toronto. Not only did Franklin County people regularly use the Smallman boats to do trading in Cornwall stores and to visit relatives and friends in Canada, but a great demand sprang up for pleasure trips on the boats; these were referred to as "excursions." On nearly every pleasant Sunday in summer, a boat would be comfortably — even uncomfortably at times — filled with a throng of merrymakes, who whiled away the leisurely ride down the winding Salmon in card games, exchanging local gossip, or watching the antics of old cronies who were practical jokers, like Wat Parker and Bill Palmer, Sr.

Arrived at Hopkins Point, the crowd wasted no time in repairing to the hotel, where genial John Taillon and his friendly family served and entertained them as welcome guests. While the cool bar in the basement was patronized by the older men, there was much call for boats to row on the lake, perhaps as far as the Lily Pond, or over to Stanley's. Indians were usually on hand, selling fish — pike, pickerel, bass and others. There was always a jovial crowd watching the croquet games on the hotel lawn, in which the "regulars" were Den McCarthy, Jim Hall, George Campbell and E. O. Forbes, but with eager volunteers ready to step in.

Night "excursions" on the river took place, occasionally, but were not always approved by the sedate citizens; and, after one such trip ended sadly in the accidental drowning of a popular young man — Jimmie McMaster of Ste. Agnes — a pall of gloom hung over the community for weeks.

These were not the first — nor the only — excursions to the river resorts. At the time of the Fair in Fort Covington in 1875, it is reported that a boat brought 300 Canadian visitors. There often were parties visiting Stanley Island — also called Dickinson's Landing —, Fraser's Point and Hamilton's Island. In course of time, a considerable colony of

cottages owned by Americans grew up on each of the latter two, as well as on Hopkins Point. In 1885, the Fort Covington colony at Hamilton's Island included members of the Grange, Burch, Lincoln, Kimball and Stewart families; the George Macartney's came later.

It was possible to go by road to both Hopkins' and Frasers', although the roads were primitive, and impassable during a wet period. Robert Fraser quotes a detailed description of a trip from Cornwall to Dundee, touching at all the lake stops, and at St. Regis. His narrative is confirmed in all essential details by Marion C. Ruddick, of Ottawa, in an unpublished manuscript.

The GRANADA was supposed to accommodate 175 passengers, but is known to have carried as many as 300.

The two Smallman boats were operated for about 30 years, ending in 1911. Captain Alexander Smallman, stern and reserved, rarely missed a trip piloting the GRANADA, which was no mean feat because of the winding of the river, and the silt which was even then filling up the channel, and which has since made it unnavigable for large boats. Captain Smallman's nephew, Captain James B. McMillan, piloted the PRINCESS LOUISE.

He was a very affable man, always gentlemanly and courteous, and contributed much to the popularity of the boat. After the closing of the steamship line, Captain and Mrs. McMillan made their home in Minneapolis, where in 1952 the captain died, and in 1958, Mrs. McMillan at the age of 90. A larger boat, and one that often carried excursions, was the ALGONA, which used to be moored at Dundee over the winter.

Train trips for pleasure also grew in popularity, especially wedding trips to Niagara Falls, which became almost a part of the ritual, as many paragraphs in THE SUN attest. In fact, for a decade or so after the first train came to Fort Covington, in 1885, its arrival, especially the evening train from Montreal — about 7:30 — would draw many watchers who would climax a pleasant summer day by a leisurely stroll in congenial company down to the Grand Trunk "depot" to see and hear the passengers who came off. The

discontinuance of passenger train service, while an economic necessity, was a blow to the village, which bus service, no matter how efficient, can hardly soften.

Baseball was not confined in those days to the school-boys, and Fort Covington, Bombay and Hogansburg often had capable and colorful town teams, which used to compete keenly with each other and with their neighbors. Fort Covington and Moira on one occasion played at Hopkins Point for a purse of \$100. It sometimes happened, and was done by both sides, that a battery might be hired from Montreal or from a nearby college. I remember that, during one summer, a pair named Dufty and Boston from Montreal, performed very successfully for the Fort. I also recall that Fred Smart was on the varsity baseball team at Dartmouth and "earned his letter" there.

In August, 1899 — I believe — one of the most thrilling day's outings ever enjoyed by Fort Covington folks was held in Valleyfield, when practically the whole population of our village went on a boatride sponsored by our ball team. The game against our Canadian friends was won by a decisive score, and we returned in triumph, cherishing our home-made scorecards as mementoes. My card shows Charlie Denneen as the winning pitcher, and Tom Rushlow his guiding catcher, to describe whom the word "aggressive" would be an understatement. Bill Palmer, Jr., at first base, was our Babe Ruth, who thought little of driving home runs — of the old-fashioned heavy ball — into the river from the home plate near the steps of the Academy. Will Minkler was our second baseman; he was the sparkplug of the team, and the "life of the party." Quiet, reliable Will Leger, at third base, was as steady as one of the blocks in his butcher shop. Bennie Gendron was a graceful outfielder; and these, with others whose names may have escaped me, were the local heroes.

The fans in those days were as keen and partisan as any of today; one would hardly have recognized the mild and gentlemanly "T" Chrisholm in the steely-eyed "rooter" who stood on the sidelines, baiting the unhappy amateur umpire. "A good time was had by all!"

Lacrosse did not extend beyond the Indian Reservation; that is, it was not played in the Three Towns; but there was keen interest in the matches played in Cornwall, which at that time was in the "big league" of Canada, along with the Montreal and Shamrock teams of Montreal, and the Capitals of Ottawa. Many local people used to attend the games.

Basketball was quite new, and had not yet attained the popularity it has since enjoyed. I have, however, received a photo which shows a girls' basketball group of seven girls and a mascot; the only one I recognize is Kitty Wilson.

Church picnics were held in the summer, one of the most popular spots being Mears' grove, the grassy, shady field under the big pines and elms, adjoining the historic home now occupied by Andy Cappiello's family. There, and at other picnic grounds, sumptuous dinners of home-cooked meats and traditional delicacies were provided, the modest profits going into the church treasuries. Ice cream "sociables" were frequent, and the ice cream, too, was home-made, not too easy a task. The County Fair was looked forward to for months, and drew many exhibitors in the Three Towns, who would proudly display their first-prize blue ribbons or second-prize red ones; and, if, perchance, one failed to get a ribbon, he or she took it gracefully, rejoicing in the neighborly competition, and sometimes realizing a tidy sum for their products. Besides the blooded stock and prize poultry, awards were given for "fancy work" made by skilful women and girls, best exhibits of fruit, and home-canned preserves, jellies and jams. The Fair was held in September in those days, and usually involved a "letting-out" of school for a day or two. Of course the family trotter and carriage was groomed for the occasion, and it was a point of pride to be seen in the best of style, going to and from the Fair.

Patriotic anniversaries were more regularly and zealously observed than they seem to be today, were carefully prepared, and drew big crowds. One Fourth of July, for example, the SUN titled its editorial "We Will Celebrate," and announced that "a largely attended meeting . . . was held in Firemen's Hall on Tuesday night . . . and it was unanimously decided to celebrate." The officers were

selected — W. J. Donovan, chairman; W. S. H. Keefe, secretary; D. F. McCarthy, treasurer; A. W. Cushman, marshal — and committees of finance, parade, advertising, sports, music and decoration were named. They include 26 men, all but one — Dino Ferrari — named here in other connections. The editor — Isaac Lyons — predicted a great success, but added a word of warning, based on his personal experience as “secretary of the last two celebrations in this town.”

In the fall used to occur the camp meetings at Brushton and Cook’s Corners, sponsored by various denominations, chiefly the Methodists and the Holiness Association. Families of devout adherents would attend, sometimes tenting out for several nights; but it must be said that, to our younger people, a day’s trip to the scene of the camp meeting was primarily for pleasure.

“Bees”— that is, community jobs to get a task done that an individual family could not do by itself — were standard practice for many years, and they qualify as social occasions because of the lavish meals, drinking and dancing that followed the day’s hard work. This might be a stumping bee, a plowing bee, a logging bee, or a housemaking bee. In every case, it was a chance to show off strength and skill; and, as a general thing, the bee would be finished by sundown. Then would come the worker’s reward — a night of feasting and revelry.

Two other occasions on which people would gather for a celebration were a wedding or a funeral — that is, the “wake” preceding the burial. Attendance at the wake was sufficient to testify one’s respect for the deceased and family, and the wake might be far from a solemn occasion. Refreshments were provided, old friends conversed, and not a little business was transacted.

Winter days and nights brought on, not only frequent dances, as we have seen, but also other kinds of endeavor and entertainment. The *SUN* of December, 1895, tells us that “Bazaars are the order of the day . . . the ladies of the Presbyterian Church have selected Dec. 11th, and the ladies of the Guild of St. Paul’s Mission that of Dec. 17th. . . .” There is frequent mention of lectures and debates, even in

the 1880's, testifying to an interest in serious matters. Debating, however, in my boyhood, was confined to the schools, and often testified more to the argumentative than to the research desire; a certain youthful debater, who shall be nameless, astonished the Academy debaters by naively proposing that Billie Palmer and Henrietta Johnson debate: "Resolved, that the horse is a more useful animal than the cow" — a proposition that Henrietta indignantly rejected! I am told that, in the 1880's there was an active debating club in the village, among the younger men, its members including Will Denneen, Maurice Dineen, Will Donovan, Chet Gillis, Charlie Howard, George Farquhar, and others. Spelling matches were long popular in country schools. The first Chautauqua was held in Fort Covington in July, 1919; it was reported a success, and was followed by others.

Amateur theatricals had a strong appeal to the people, and nearly every season saw a newly-performed play presented in Firemen's Hall. Some were by the seniors of the high school, one being entitled "Senior Salmagundi," in which Fred Villeneuve was the star, and Sherwood Johnson and Edith Hutchins rendered piano solos. Refreshments were sold; "fortunes were told by Professor Villeneuve," and there were sideshows. Another benefit was given for the Yacht Club, in which leading parts were taken by Charles Mayhew, Jim Hall and his daughter Marion, Frances Cushman, and fun-loving George Campbell, who was always available to cheer people up. Some of the same people are found in the cast of a more ambitious "dramatic entertainment" entitled "Uncle Ephraim's Summer Boarders," which was given under the auspices of the Ladies Benefit Society of the Presbyterian Church, in the days when Glen Sealy was principal of the high school. The actors on that occasion were members of that congregation, and a number of them are still with us. Professor Sealy was not the first school principal to render his talents to his temporary home; nearly 30 years before, Walter S. Flint took a leading role in "The Death of Haman"; and, if my memory is accurate, Robert L. Joyce was a capable entertainer. Fort Covington has had many performers of talent in musical lines, and not a few, includ-

ing Bess Cameron (Remmel), Sherwood Johnson (Adams) and Ada Hutchins (Williams), had careers as teachers. There have been excellent quartets among the men, too; notably one in the '80s on which "Chet" Gillis was outstanding.

The telegraph, and, a little later, the telephone arrived in our section in the early 90s, and were at first used more as new toys than as a means of serious communication. Francis Denneen, already showing signs of his later brilliant accomplishments in the electrical field, began stringing wires to various village houses; and the community "enjoyed" — or at any rate, experienced — its first sensations of talking by remote control. Amateur telegraph sets were installed, and young people in school became keen to use the Morse code, as young people of today are to follow the astronauts.

The extension of electric facilities and of public interest in them, plus the ample water power furnished by our rivers, naturally attracted inquiry as to its commercial use. In 1903, Patrick Keefe, of Iroquois, Ontario, decided to put in a power plant at the dam on the Salmon River, whose power had been used by the Wright and McNaughton mills. He formed the Fort Covington Light, Heat and Power Company, with a capital of \$17,000. A contract was made with the village government, by which the village agreed to pay a yearly rental of \$400 per year for the use of twelve arc lights, which were duly installed. Mr. Keefe moved to Fort Covington, where he lived until his death a highly respected, useful citizen. His son, William S. H. Keefe, was his partner, and, with his wife, was prominent in the Fort for a long time.

From that time to the present, the Fort has been one of the best-lighted villages in the state. There is a power dam in Hogansburg on the site of the former grist mill. The farmers' homes and the business places were gradually connected, and by the time of World War I, modern electrical conveniences had added much happiness to the Three Towns. The first telephone pay station was installed in Matthews' store. The telephone company fitted up an office, later, in the small building adjacent to Den McCarthy's

tailor shop, and there Lillian Mayhew — now Mrs. Walter Lowe, of Malone — was a busy manager for several years.

Automobiles made their appearance during the 1900-10 decade, but the usual difficulties with poor roads, freezing, ignition and fear of accidents — to say nothing of the expense — made their general adoption slow. The ingrained love for, and pride in, fine horses formed a serious obstacle to the ready acceptance of the auto, and it was a good many years before the last hitching posts disappeared. Perhaps the first automobile in Fort Covington was driven by a Mr. Melius, who was sent here by the state to supervise the construction of the state highway, which has become Route 37. Melius lived at Kellogg's Hotel, and his big car — a Packard, I believe — was the focus of attention in the town, and the object of envious desire by the young boys, who were the first natives to get auto rides. But, by the arrival of the 1915 Census, there were a number of cars registered in the Three Towns, and Charles Mayhew listed his occupation as "chauffeur." In Westville, John Benn, a former resident who had become prosperous "down East," returned, about 1910, driving his own car, which was perhaps the pioneer there.



Salmon Central School

26

DAYS NOT SO HAPPY

The Three Towns have been singularly fortunate in the fewness of serious disasters and the relative absence of outstanding crimes. Nevertheless, the unhappy side of our history must also be recorded, and this chapter will discuss outstanding incidents of an unhappy kind.

Climate and its temporary phase, the weather, are food for daily conversation here, as everywhere else; and were the news comments on them to be stricken from the press, and latterly from the radio, a great blank would be left.

The official description of our climate, as stated by the Extension Service of the Agricultural Department, is that "it is a cool, humid continental climate with summers cool and short; winters cold and long. Annual precipitation is about 37 inches, one-half of which falls from May through September. April is usually the driest month. . . . About 100 inches of snow falls in the northern part. . . . Average temperature is 41 degrees, with 60 degrees during the growing season. July is the warmest month, with 65 degrees average; February is the coldest, with an average of 15 degrees. . . . The maximum length of the growing season in the northern part of the county is about 135 days."

This summarizes fairly the weather that we expect to get, and to which our people have always adapted their lives, realizing that, as Mark Twain cynically observed, "nobody can do anything about it," except talk, which everybody does, or move away, which some have done, but not without fond regrets, for life embraces many elements beside the weather.

The first abnormal manifestation of our weather — for the severity of the winter of 1813 on the troops stationed at French Mills was not abnormal; only the failure to provide against it was — is recorded in the "year without a summer" — 1816. In a long and vivid letter published, a few years ago in the MALONE TELEGRAM, a man who signs him-

self only as "Edmund" described it and its sad effects in a letter to his sister in New York City. While his description refers to Malone, it was undoubtedly correct also for our Three Towns. I quote a few sentences:

"It rained or snowed and the wind blew at the rate of a gale, day after day . . . April and May went by . . . nothing could be planted. The weather could not permit it . . . June went by slowly. Men bought, begged and stole food for their families . . . Mary, you have never seen big, strong men beg and cry and plead on bended knees for food. I have, and so have we all in Malone during this year of hell . . . July was here. . . . Word was brought that food was being sent from Fort Covington. . . . The day for the arrival of the necessary food dawned. As the entire town gathered to welcome the supplies, word was received that there was no food in Fort Covington."

Eventually, a Malone business man, Noah Moody, drove to Troy, and returned with a carload of flour. The next year was normal weather, and "the men are singing in the fields." There has never been another "summerless" year; and, 75 years later, I recall how my mother, when she was teased by some Kansas relatives, quietly replied that "she had never heard of anyone starving to death in Franklin County."

Serious widespread storms are unusual in our area, where the annual typhoons that afflict our southeastern states and the hurricanes that often afflict the Plains States have been subject of wonder to those few of our inhabitants who have chanced to witness them or talk to some who experienced them. On May 12, 1875, a windstorm struck Fort Covington village, unroofed a schoolhouse near Malachi Barry's, ruined several other buildings, killed one girl and injured others. July 29, 1886, a violent wind and hailstorm swept over Westville and the southern part of Fort Covington and Bombay. A farmer whose crops had looked promising the day before, offered what was left for \$5. In Bombay, a farmer and his son were caught in the hay-field, and lightning, attracted by the pitchfork in the boy's hand, killed him. Our most serious storms have been the

blizzards — heavy snowstorms with high winds that occur, nearly every winter. They follow no uniform pattern, hence they can not be predicted. The winter of 1933-34 was a record-breaking hard winter, heavy snow falling as early as October 22. . . . On the other hand, the SUN stated on Feb. 1, 1940, "no snow here yet, while Watertown reports 68 inches;" but later in the same season, there was a blizzard on Easter (March 24) and the following two days. During World War II, there was a "storm without parallel at this time of year" — in December. Three lives were lost, but none in the Three Towns. At the end of March, 1955, there was a three-day blizzard, which was rated "the worst storm of of the century." Roads were impassable, all schools were closed, and many cars were stranded, and their occupants had to be rescued; but the storm was general throughout the state, and no lives were lost in our area.

In olden days, the date of the first freezing over of the St. Lawrence was a day of importance, since it enabled people to plan on visiting relatives and friends in Canada. But with the general adoption of the automobile and the increased maintenance of roads by both governments, the use of the "big river" for this purpose has become relatively unimportant. The "going out of the ice" from the rivers, toward the end of March, used to be awaited with some anxiety, and, on a pleasant day, would draw crowds to the bridges to watch the ice floes plunge over the dams and look for the sudden decline of the water level which frequently rose to the steps of the Academy, before the jam broke; I believe there are many pictures of such scenes in local family albums. Floods, although always a subject of speculation, have rarely been serious, and have practically never caused loss of life. During World War II, the TELEGRAM reported, under the heading "Rivers Drop Going On Rampage," that "the Salmon, St. Regis, and Little Salmon dropped several feet to near normal, and occupants of farm houses along the river banks . . . were re-entering them and taking stock of the damage." A trestle on the Rutland railroad was washed out and an accident to a train carrying troops was narrowly averted.

Natural plagues too, have rarely afflicted us. In 1875, it was recorded that grasshoppers did severe damage in Westville; but, ordinarily those pests have been successfully controlled by the poultry, as I have told, elsewhere; and, in recent years, the general use of insecticides, and the watchfulness of the Farm Bureau have largely eliminated such threats.

There has been only one earthquake scare serious enough to be mentioned. That was in 1944, as Robert Fraser records it; and, though it alarmed Cornwall and Massena, it did not affect the Three Towns.

Not so, however, with the damage done by fire. In early times, forest fires were often used as a valuable help in clearing the land; they had to be watched, and would occasionally get out of hand. The making of charcoal for commercial purposes was apparently not followed here; the writer's father used to tell that his first work for pay was "at a charcoal pit in Essex County;" that was in 1845, when he was 14.

In 1948, the village of Fort Covington was threatened by fire, but was saved by a shift in the wind. Forty buildings were burned in Bombay. Westville also suffered severely. Fire insurance companies were impressed into putting into their policies on farm buildings clauses exempting them from liability for damage resulting from storms; but these provisions were stricken out, later. Many fires have been started by lightning striking buildings, and starting blazes which, fanned by the wind, were often impossible to control, despite the most strenuous effort. In such farm fires, multitudes of farm animals and poultry were destroyed, sometimes valuable horses resisting in terror attempts to blindfold them and lead them through the flames.

It would be invidious to single out even the worst of these disasters; they have occurred in every year, and they have brought out countless examples of courage, tremendous labor, pathetic suffering, and neighborly charity toward the victims. As we have told, before, the local village fire-fighting forces, quite voluntarily, have played an admirable role, and at present have excellent equipment and, no doubt, a spirit

of intention emulating that shown by their predecessors, through long decades in the past.

Two fires of considerable proportion must be recorded, because of their serious effect on the communities. The first of these was the fire which nearly destroyed Bombay village on the morning of Sept. 8, 1921. It started in the Shields Brothers moccasin factory, and was first observed at about seven o'clock in the morning; the employees were scheduled to begin work at eight. An odor of burning kerosene, and the fact that just a short time before, a barn owned by Shields Brothers had been set on fire, caused suspicion that the factory fire was of incendiary origin; but no one was ever prosecuted for it. Shields Brothers factory, consisting of two buildings, each 86 x 26 feet, and the office building, 115 x 40, which contained a large supply of finished goods, was entirely destroyed. The loss here was about \$100,000, of which insurance covered about two-thirds. Dan Cross' residence, adjoining the factory, C. H. Harlow's store, and a few other buildings also were badly damaged. Several of the volunteer firemen who fought the fire were injured, the one suffering most seriously being Howard McNair, who came with the other Fort Covington volunteer firemen; but there was no loss of life. As a result of this fire, serious alterations were later made in the village business section, in which ten buildings had been destroyed.

Hogansburg had a severe fire in 1915, which resulted in the burning of a hotel, all but two stores, a factory building which manufactured baskets and toys, and several dwellings. Again, in 1937, the village was severely scourged by fire. The old Bombay high school, a three-story building, was burned to ashes on Sunday, Nov. 27, 1960, despite the best efforts of 52 firemen called in under the county Mutual Aid system. The fire threatened to spread to neighboring buildings, but only one other was actually involved, due, probably, to a favorable wind.

Farm fires, involving both homes and outbuildings, have been perhaps the most prolific source of damage to the residents of the Three Towns. It would be impossible, of course, to enumerate all or even the principal of those fires.

The most horrifying calamity of this kind occurred on the night of March 14-15, 1954, on the Cook Road in the St. Regis reservation. An Indian family of the name of Cree lived there on their farm home. The house caught fire, and eight children, ranging in age from 1½ to 15 years, lost their lives. As a direct result of this disaster, a fire unit was formed in Hogansburg, provided by donations starting at \$100 each, to secure the necessary equipment. The Canadian government, which has a contract with Hogansburg, to care for the Indians on the Canadian side, donated a Chrysler marine pumper, and 2,000 feet of hose with nozzles, and contracted to keep them in repair. So, the Cree holocaust was not entirely in vain.

The burning of Earl Rowley's store in Westville a few years ago was a notable loss. In fact, there are few, if any, sections of the Three Towns which have not suffered fire disasters; but in the future, it may safely be surmised, ordinary fires are quite certain to be well-controlled.

The health history of the Three Towns is not unlike that of most rural parts of the northern states. In my previous discussion of physicians, I called attention to the primitive conditions they had to combat and the obstacles of a rigorous climate and poor roads they had to overcome. Times — and people — have changed so much since then that it may be difficult now to evaluate their services. Even the nomenclature they used might puzzle us. "Ship fever" was a form of typhus. "Scrofula" is no longer mentioned in polite society. And it is fortunate for this historian that the countless antibiotics and other discoveries whose praises fill our ears today were unheard of in earlier days. Neither pediatricians nor podiatrists sent bills to our ancestors; and, as for psychiatry, while it might have benefitted many of the problem cases of those days, the people got along pretty well by the use of common sense and mild restraint — not always so mild. Probably the sanest and most accurate picture of our medical history will result from a careful and open-minded reading of Dr. Macartney's "Fifty Years a Country Doctor." That book not only gives much reliable insight into our community life, but it contains a wealth of details on every

phase of our health and sickness, which it would be useless for me, a layman, to touch upon. The doctor lived long enough to see vast improvements in medicine and surgery; he welcomed them, and passed on to us and to those who come after us cautions as to their use and abuse which would be well not to ignore.

The climate of the Three Towns is healthful, if rather severe in winter for older people, and for those in delicate health. In recent years — since about 1925 — there is a noticeable trend toward spending the winter months in Florida to escape the severe weather. Dr. Macartney himself made annual trips to that state for fishing as well as relaxation, and William Smith established a pleasant home at Bradenton, where he continued market-gardening, for which he had become well known in Fort Covington. Mr. Smith died in Florida, as also did Irvin Merrick, Sherrie Foster, Ed Miller and Charles Dempsey, of our well-known neighbors; but in all cases, their bodies repose in their native soil. John Fallon has gone, each winter, to St. Petersburg for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Earl Rowley, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Berry, Margaret Bero, Mrs. Lucille (Merrick) Lockwood, and Mrs. Beulah (Reynolds) Spinney are among those who seek more comfort in southern atmosphere; but to all of them the Three Towns is home.

Epidemics have visited our area from time to time, but without excessive damage, as compared to the great calamities associated with many places. During 1832, there were eight or ten deaths from Asiatic cholera. In 1848 — at the time of the terrible Irish famine — about twenty of the refugees died here, of "ship fever." In 1875, and again in 1890, diphtheria claimed a heavy toll,

An epidemic of scarlet fever nearly wiped out the John Dewey family, who lived on the farm later occupied by William McDonald, in the Chapman district. Small pox once was a serious threat, but the general use of vaccination has practically eliminated it. It must be noted, however, that a special problem of controlling contagious diseases was the unsanitary health habits of the St. Regis Indians in former days. Their crowded houses, and their indifference to health

precautions made them very susceptible to all epidemics. Small pox in 1828, cholera in 1832, typhus and tuberculosis in later years, swept away large numbers of Indians; and, despite the strenuous work of the neighboring white physicians whose services as health officers and personal consultants throughout these many years have been of greatest value, their death-rate has usually been high.

In 1889 ,and again in 1918, the "flu" claimed many victims in the Three Towns and the harrowing situation is described in Dr. Macartney's book. Of individual cases, it is recorded that James Shannon lost three children by TB; that the Monaham family of Hogansburg was wiped out in 1929, and that in the burial plot of Edward McCaffrey, Sr., in the old cemetery of St. Mary's, five tiny graves hold the bodies of infant children who died almost in successive years in pioneer days; and that is not a unique case.

On the other hand, our towns have produced not a few centenarians and persons who have been active until well up into their nineties; among these latter, "Bill" Condon, of Wolf Swamp, and "Betsy" (Mrs. Charles) Baska, of Fort Covington village, attracted much attention in their time.

Our centenarians have included Mrs. Russell — described by Dr. Macartney — she died at 113; Mrs. Lepine, the oldest participant in St. Mary's anniversary; Mrs. Frank Basha; Hetty (Mrs. Albert) Nevin; and Mrs. Elizabeth Taylor, who died in 1960, leaving eight children, 56 grandchildren and 60 great-grandchildren. James Campbell, the early leader whom I have often referred to, lived to be 99.

Modern days have seen a general use by our people of hospitals and sanatoria, which are readily accessible, though there is none within the Three Towns. One unfortunate condition that has contributed to their greater use is the relatively larger number of motor accidents, many of them fatal, that have followed the construction of modern roads, particularly Route 37. This has caused many of the sad days that have marred our generally happy history. But the situation, of course, is not novel, nor peculiar to our story.

The final disturbing factor in the general happiness of

the Three Towns is the occurrence of crime and what might be called "public immorality." Our record in those respects is by no means bad. In the course of 200 years, there have been less than a half-dozen murder cases that attract attention; the incidence of serious crimes of other kinds has been that of the average community in our eastern states; and it was only during the operation of the 18th amendment that there was any conspicuous problem posed in law enforcement.

The first murder prosecuted and punished in our area was the murder of Fanny Mosley, an itinerant seamstress, by Stephen Videto in 1825. The man was apprehensive that he might have to marry the woman, who was boarding with his family; and he alleged that she was shot through a window by prowling Indians, but the evidence of his guilt was overwhelming, and the jury convicted him after only 15 minutes deliberation. He was hanged at Malone on August 26, 1825; his execution attracted an enormous crowd.

Sixty years later, in the same neighborhood — Deer River, in Fort Covington — a very similar murder was committed — that of Nancy Gower by her husband Edward; both had been drinking. Gower was allowed to plead guilty to manslaughter in the second degree. He served one year in Dannemora, after which he left the neighborhood.

The trial of Sam Labrake for the shooting of the Indian Celos Ransom in 1897, has been described elsewhere; Sam, too, after his brief term expired, moved to different parts.

Other serious crimes have not stained our records to any considerable degree. Though fires have been quite common, as we have seen, there has been little evidence of arson; nature has been the chief culprit. There have been no robberies or embezzlements on a large scale. Probably, the ablest criminal — if we admit success in crime as an evidence of ability — who had any connection with our Three Towns was Charles E. Perrin, who was born in Fort Covington about 1840. His story is told in full in Seaver's History — pages 348-50 — and I do not feel it useful to insert it here; the narration shows that Perrin's adventures were entirely in other parts of the state.

False claims for damages have been exposed from time to time, as in the post-war period, of which I have spoken. Many of our residents were involved in smuggling in of Chinese or other forbidden imports; but those matters were always outside the jurisdiction of the Three Towns. One of the most notable smugglers of whom we have record was Joseph Dumas, a French-Canadian, who systematically defied and evaded the customs authorities for years. He was a man of tremendous strength, and on most of the few occasions when he was cornered on the American side of the Line, he fought his way free. Eventually, however, he died in a Canadian prison. It should be mentioned here that Canadian treatment of offenders was noticeably more strict than American, and that had a salutary effect. The story is told that the Begin "boys," who were lively, if not too heinous, trespassers against the peace of the community in their young days, were once incarcerated for a time in Beauharnois jail, where they were fed so abstemiously that their father had to drive down from Fort Covington with food for them; after which experience, they were careful to perform on the American side of the border.

There is some evidence of attempts to grow marijuana for narcotic preparation, in secluded parts, but this has never reached serious proportions.

In short, we have been a notably crime-free area, and our history has been marked by many more Happy than Unhappy Days.



An Old Metal Souvenir Tray from the Fort Covington CASH BAZAAR, Showing the Fort Covington Academy's Two Homes (1831 and 1876)

27 THE ROMANCE OF RUM-RUNNING

A colorful part of the history of the Three Towns is the story of the consumption and sale of "hard liquor" there. In pioneer days, as we have seen, whiskey was commonly consumed, and was locally distilled or "rectified." In 1829, the FRANKLIN REPUBLICAN carried a long rymed advertisement of the flourishing store of John Davidson at Dundee; one stanza reads: "Brandy, rum and whiskey, too; the latter's good, although it's new; But age would make it better still, When epicures may drink their fill."

For a good many years, distilleries were among the leading business establishments in our area; there must have been a half dozen or more of them in all.

No stigma was attached to the business, and the distilleries changed hands as freely as other forms of property. Government interference, in taxes or inspection, was negligible. The whiskey was for sale to anyone, in the grocery stores, for a few cents a drink, and was exposed in pails with handy dippers. Later on, the use of corn as a distilling agent enabled western and southern producers to market a smoother and more agreeable liquor, which in time put the local article off the market.

Some of the church bodies and their leaders expressed strong disapproval of the drinking of liquor and urged that its sale be stopped. These men and women were looked upon as fanatics, but they kept on campaigning, and little by little, their efforts began to produce results. Rev. Nathaniel Colver, who, as we have seen, was an aggressive man of remarkable eloquence, campaigned vigorously in the 1830s for restrictions on the sale of liquor.

Jabez Parkhurst, was another "tee-total-ler," and George A. Cheney and S. E. Blood were listed as temperance advocates. Sons of Temperance lodges were formed.

The opening of a saloon or the selling of liquor required authorization by the commissioners of excise, who were

county officers at the time of the Civil War, but after 1874 the list of town officers includes a single commissioner elected for a one-year term; it was apparently a position of little importance, and probably of nominal salary; if any; no one seems to have held it for more than a year at a time. The granting of permission to sell liquor was dependent on approval through an affirmative vote at the annual town meeting. These legal requirements were in effect until 1918; whether they had any significant effect on the Three Towns is open to question, since the sale of liquor was legal, all that time, in Canada, just a few miles away.

Of the Three Towns, Bombay and Westville were usually "wet"; Fort Covington consistently "dry" — which means, simply, that it was not legal to sell liquor in any amount of less than five gallons within the town limits. Physicians had the privilege of prescribing it by complying with certain formalities, but there is no record that they abused this. In 1859, it is stated, "nearly all applications for liquor licenses were denied" by the county commissioners — Taylor, Mears and Paddock. These commissioners were succeeded by Keeler, Kimball and Keaveney, the Kimball being J. W. Kimball.

These last commissioners voted to discontinue suits which had been brought against Alex Dutcher, David and Robert Stafford and Robert McGee, all of Fort Covington, on payment of costs, not over \$5 per suit. In 1875, Charles P. Elliott, James M. Blansfield and John McKay were commissioners of excise; Blansfield's name recurs frequently.

Numerous temperance societies existed in the towns from time to time and some Protestant clergymen aided their agitation. On the other hand, the Staffords stubbornly fought for the right to sell liquor, as other towns permitted.

The result was that many petitions asking for the prosecution of violators of the license laws appear in the records, during the early 70s. For example, a complaint in 1871 is signed by John Quaw, John Chapman, Francis Nevins, Samuel Short, Moses Cowan, George A. Cheney, Joel Lyman, James C. Ryan, Henry Briggs and others asking the prosecution of James Caul, David Stafford, Robert Stafford,

and Briggs Russell for selling liquor without a license. Equally long petitions were presented on the other side.

According to an article by John Quaw, written in 1889, the town of Fort Covington adopted prohibition in 1875, which began an era of 58 years during which no liquor was legally sold in the town, but those who wanted it could always get their drinks at Dundee, Tolmie's "line store" or at Trout River, and often at Bombay or Hogansburg. When the saloons were officially closed, there were seven in Fort Covington, on Chateaugay and Water Streets; the proprietors being Jim Caul, Porter Briggs, Charles Adams, Abe Allen, Dutcher, Moss and Fellows. There were also two flourishing distilleries, the larger being Michael Meade's.

The installing of national Prohibition by the adoption of the Eighteenth Amendment in 1920 began a new era of excitement and confusion for the Three Towns. Fort Covington was the first American town to be reached by "rum runners" bringing loads of valuable liquor from Canada by car to Massena and thence down state. The roads crossing the border through Westville also offered tempting access to the illicit traffic. A barn on the Arnold farm in Ste. Agnes is said to have been used as a storehouse; there were doubtless many others. The traffic, which promised to be very lucrative, was soon controlled by dealers from New York and other big cities. They did not hesitate to use professional men, and even women, to give their operations the air of respectability. The SUN reported, early in 1920, that "a young woman came through here, recently, with a Maxwell car and 15 cases of liquor. . . . Other men are taking their wives and children along, to ward off suspicion. . . . There have been several cases where cars loaded with 'booze' refused to settle and tried to get away." Shooting affrays became common. Remote farms, such as the Castagnier farm at Fiddlers Elbow, and the Duhesme farm, were scenes of gun battles. Loads of cases of liquor were sometimes abandoned in emergencies. The temptation to local people was great, and in some cases proved irresistible. Loads of Canadian liquor were sometimes brought to remote spots along

the border and concealed there until more favorable weather or road conditions allowed its being smuggled through.

John O. Noreault was charged with having stored 1,296 quarts and 188 pints of Canadian ale on his farm, and of having been paid \$100 by another local man for storing ten loads of ale there. In this case, the customs officers said "they believe they have broken up a huge smuggling syndicate." The men were charged with possession and conspiracy, and were released on \$1,000 bail each.

The enforcement officers were selected after written examination, and few, if any, of them were local people. They patrolled the roads in cars, especially at night, and, as the bootleggers also drove high-powered cars, it was sometimes difficult to distinguish them. A local man who was then in the prime of life, and who was a close observer of all that went on, writes:

"It was not uncommon . . . to see from one up to eight or ten cars all loaded with strong liquors passing through for downstate cities. . . . On the Canadian side, where they used to load . . . they would try to get away after they were loaded without paying for their load . . . in some instances, where they loaded on a barn floor, they would back out right through a closed door and take off . . . in a few cases they were shot at . . . some were wounded, and at least one man died of wounds received that way . . . it was dangerous to be on the road at night, for there were hijackers on the road, and the patrol men did not hesitate to shoot at anyone who refused to stop."

Residents who lived on the road from Dundee which leads into Water Street, Fort Covington, were frequent witnesses and sometimes unwilling participants in exciting affrays between the officers and the lawbreakers. For the most vivid narration of such events, I am indebted to Harry and Bill Kelsey, sons of the late Cecil Kelsey, who were schoolboys in those exciting days. The Kelsey house stood between the river and the Dundee road, and just at a sharp bend in the road, about 100 yards north of the railroad track. At this bend the cars, usually travelling at high speed, would often go out of control and plunge into the five-foot ditch.

"Then, we in the house would hear the scream of rubber, a series of sharp thumps . . . followed by the crash of glass." The federal agents took station at night by the house, and, using pump shotguns, blew out the rear tires of any vehicles that did not stop." There was a power pole beside the road, near the Shartrand home; this pole was sheared off at least four times in one summer. "If the motorists were alert and lucky enough to escape the curve, their next job was to get by Customs." Cars that failed to stop were fired upon, and often pursued. Some bootleggers abandoned their cars and took off across the fields. There were plenty of wrecks; Cecil Kelsey obtained a practically new Chevy engine for his motorboat out of one such wreck for only \$50. Thus, for a dozen years, life on the border was spiced with excitement; but the local people had no desire to join in "the fun."

One patrolman who gained much notoriety was Alec Scruton, who came from St. Lawrence County, where he had been a blacksmith. He is said to have received a special commission from President Coolidge, after having failed the regular examination. Scruton was a good shot, and a man of ruthless temperament. It is believed that he shot at least seven men, four of them while in the river trying to escape from him. A few years later, when Saturday night carousing on the streets of Fort Covington village by drunken Indians became a nuisance, the village authorities, mindful of Scruton's reputation, employed him to correct the situation, and it is said that he performed the job. Mr. Scruton died at Fort Covington in 1955.

The records of the federal courts during the Prohibition years are, as might be supposed, filled with details of cases involving arrest and prosecution of violators of the "Volstead Law," and the 20th Amendment. But few of these are localized enough to throw any specific light on the Three Towns. The annual summaries of cases show that the cases tried ran into the thousands, that the great majority pleaded guilty, that there were practically no acquittals, that patrolmen were killed and injured, and that state officers often cooperated in arrests.

In one notable case — *Ex parte Dickson vs. Esks* —

Judge Cooper stated (1926) that "it was well known that smugglers of this kind . . . unless they wrecked their cars . . . could be captured in only one of two ways — to overtake and stop them at the risk of death or injury to the officers . . . the other to cripple their cars. . . . Smugglers apparently infest the northern border . . . neither officers in uniform, nor signals, nor law, nor ethics, nor anything other than force, can accomplish this purpose." Under such conditions, it is surprising and very fortunate that fatalities were not more numerous.

These conditions continued until 1933, when "the Great Experiment" ended ingloriously with the repeal of national prohibition, mourned only by a few of its zealous supporters, of whom the Three Towns had their share. The residents here, by and large, took no part in rum-running or in its actual suppression; for they were afraid of reprisals from the desperate characters who were engaged in it.

I have found it difficult to obtain details or factual data on the picturesque and exciting events of the Prohibition days. Officers now in service who were familiar with the stirring events say they have been advised that they "were not supposed to write or tell anything." The Border Patrol office in Malone states that many of its records "were destroyed, a few years ago." Clippings that would be informative and useful were sent to Albany, where it is not easy to obtain them.



St. Mary's Convent, Fort Covington

28

MODERN TIMES

The 1920s were, for the Three Towns, as for most of the United States, a time of prosperity and general relaxation. The return home of the boys who had been in service gave the whole community a lift, and the idea was prevalent that wars were a thing of the past, and that we might look forward to a long period of prosperity. As the SUN remarked later, "it was the era of keeping cool with Coolidge, when people's greatest worry appeared to be over the younger generation and jazz. . . ." During 1926-28, prices of milk and butter soared, and the residents were able to buy new luxuries.

Automobiles became common, and the former enthusiasm for fine horses which had characterized both farmers and businessmen of earlier days began to fade. In fact, Frederick J. Seaver, writing in 1918, commented on that in his "Sketches of Franklin County." There were sales agencies for cars and parts in each village, and service stations took the place of blacksmith shops. Tom Lowe and the Mayhew brothers conducted two of the busiest stations in Fort Covington village. A few years ago, one of the most attractive homes there — the former Robert Stafford residence, at the junction of Chateaugay Street and the Malone road, in which Dennis Meade and his wife lived for several years, was sold and demolished, to be replaced by the Esso service station, a large and convenient one. Leo Derouchie, despite his physical handicap, took over and successfully managed the former Levi Derouchie property at the corner of Water and Center Streets, supporting a large family.

Each of the other towns is well supplied with service stations, and there is no reason to suppose that any resident who owns a car, and that includes nearly every family, need be long hampered in getting full use of it. The prevailing price for gasoline is about 32 cents per gallon.

In 1959, the Farmers National Bank, of Malone, pur-

chased the historic building and land in Fort Covington, where the Matthews family had conducted business for so many years, and announced its intention of opening a branch. The Matthews store was demolished, and a neat modern structure was erected, with rooms for offices available on the lower level. James Dempsey, 2nd, who had been living near New York City, after his graduation from Fordham, was engaged as manager of the branch, which opened for business on January 9, 1961, and it is a distinct addition to the business district, and a great convenience to the Towns.

Neither Bombay nor Westville has ever had a bank.

The increase in automobiles had countless other results, both good and bad, which scarcely needs recapitulation here, as they are commonplace to all American communities. Two, however, of especial significance here, were the great increase in mileage of good roads, and the rapid decline in railroad service, finally ending in its near-elimination. Beginning soon after the turn of the century, the state took over more and more the reconstruction of main highways and the improvement of connecting roads, some of which — as the east-west-road from Coggin's bridge through Fort Covington Centre — were designated "farm-to-market" roads. The traditional road districts — of which the town of Fort Covington alone had 41 — were abolished. Road construction was no longer a neighborhood job, done casually and rather ineffectively by the farmers themselves; contracts were let, in much detail, to professional construction companies, whose headquarters were in distant places; and their agreements were subject to scrutiny and approval by the state engineers and county officers. Occasionally, one of those companies would go into bankruptcy before its contract was completed; this happened on a section of Route 37, near St. Regis. The result has been a complete change in our transportation situation — efficient, to be sure, but expensive, and not without possibility of abuse. The very perfection of a new road tempts careless or inexperienced drivers; it has been charged that Route 37 has one of the highest casualty rates in the country. The Roosevelt Highway — Route 95 — serves the town of Bombay, as shown

on our map, and connects with the main highways to Canada, Massena and Malone.

In the 1930s, bus routes were established and their use by mail carriers and, later, by passenger and freight-carrying companies, increased rapidly. The SUN of March 19, 1942, commented: "The bus service through Fort Covington . . . is doing a good business. Ticket sales at Fort Covington are averaging about \$50 a week and showing healthful and steady growth. About April 1, it is expected about three more busses will be added to the schedule between Malone and Massena, for the convenience of Massena workers. The Adirondack Trailways, the firm operating the line, is just now awaiting the franchise to carry workers to the plant." The article refers to the Massena plant of the Aluminum Company of America, which was then entering upon great expansion and activity. The wages offered at the Alcoa plant, and later at the Reynolds plant, also in Massena, attracted many men who had been farmers, who practically abandoned their farms to "commute" to Massena, or some to live there. At certain points along the bus routes, where branch roads joined it, might be seen a number of autos parked during the day, awaiting the return from Massena of their owners in the evening. This proved a drawback to the farming industry, as the farms could not be satisfactorily conducted without man labor, and they deteriorated rapidly; for example, the farms on the Moira road. A reverse effect, not very pronounced, has been the sale or lease of houses in Bombay and Fort Covington to new employees of the Massena plants. At present, buses are operated by the Greyhound and Trailways companies.

The competition of buses and, more especially of large trucks, struck a telling blow at the railroads which had been serving the Three Towns. As passenger traffic declined, trains were reduced in number, and finally eliminated. Then, as freight business declined, permission was asked to terminate the franchise. The first to go was the railroad built by Ernest G. Reynolds in 1889; it extended only from Bombay to Moira. It was sold under foreclosure in 1897, and the tracks taken up and sold for scrap.

This road had a connection at Moira with the New York and Ottawa Railroad, which, in its palmy days, had a busy border station called Nyando — N-Y-and-O, which has become Roosevelttown. This, too, was foreclosed, while it was still the Northern Adirondack Railroad — “John Hurd’s road.” It would seem that both Hurd and Reynolds were overly-ambitious and would not cooperate with efforts that were made to integrate and maintain these railroads as one system.

The Fort Covington and Massena Springs Railroad, built by the Grand Trunk, and furnishing good connections to both Montreal and downstate New York, was the next to be affected. The daily trains from Montreal were reduced to one a day about 1940, and passenger service ended in 1953. This was effected only after the strenuous resistance by local civic leaders.

The use of motorboats on the rivers continued to spread, and some very fine boats were owned and operated. For example, Will Shields, after he took over the former Duquette property at Stanley Island, operated a fine boat. The Salmon River Yacht Club went out of existence in 1926, and the boat houses which were once so busy, around the Drum Street bridge, gradually disappeared; some of them were washed away in the Spring “freshets.” In 1944, Henry Keeler and Alfred Dumas started a marina at that location, which has continued to do a good business until the present time. They deal in boats and motors, marine supplies and fishing tackle; the types most popular are Thompson and Starcraft boats and Evinrude motors. The firm also rents dockage slips, and at this time boats owned by the following residents are docked here: John Courtney, Howard Tuper, Dr. Bob Smith of Fort Covington, Stanley Crawford of Burke, Charles Campbell of Potsdam, Lee Sprague, Frank Anderson, Ray Totman, Don Harwood of Malone, A. B. Gorrow of North Lawrence, Dr. Arthur Eldred of Bombay, Roy Elliott of Brushton, and Dr. Wade Hastings of Bangor. Last summer (1961) there were altogether some 70 boats at the marina.

Since the boats are used for relaxation and enjoyment

only, they turn our attention naturally to the sports and pastimes of the area. From the earliest days, our people have been lovers of, and enthusiastic participants in, games and sports of all kinds practiced in this country. Our boys have made creditable records, but very few have followed sport, professionally. Probably the best all-around athlete ever to come from the Three Towns was William Palmer, Jr., who distinguished himself in baseball, track, and football between 1890 and 1910, and who died January 3, 1956, in Chester, Mass., from where he always maintained a keen interest in his early home in Fort Covington. Bill set records at Potsdam Normal School, and in 1903, he played on the Red and Black professional football team of Watertown, New York, which played for the championship of the country in 'Madison Square Garden. Another outstanding baseball player of those days was Grover Frew, of South Bombay, who was the catcher for the Brushton team in the Northern League about 1912.

Another star of that period was Jack Brannen, who lives today in his handsome home in Long Lake, surrounded by trophies and art treasures, mementoes of a long and busy career in medicine in Montreal. As a boy there, Jack was a hockey star on the college teams of the city.

Fort Covington men have always been interested in shooting — stemming, no doubt, from their normal activity in hunting deer and wild fowl, during whose open season many bag the limit allowed. In recent years, Cameron Farquhar has been active in pistol shooting, which he took up in 1930 at Colgate University. He later shot with the Malone and Massena Pistol Clubs, and helped form the Northern New York Shooters League, of which he was secretary for several years. Since 1950, he has competed in several national rifle tournaments, each year. He was granted the rank of expert in 1955, and of Master in 1960. In the national matches at Camp Perry, Ohio, in 1958, Cameron was ranked fifth in the entire United States in the grand aggregate score for experts.

David Gorman, while still a student at Fort Covington High School, took up motor boat racing, his first contests

being off Hopkins Point. He took part in the marathon race at Alexandria Bay when he was sixteen years old, finishing seventh over all and first in his class. Progressing from smaller to more powerful boats, he entered various professional races in Quebec Province. In 1956, he won the Northeastern Division championship at Black Lake, then went on to Shreveport, Louisiana, to compete in the National, which he contested again at Pittsburgh. He won eleven straight races in 1958, and was first in the Canadian High Point championship, also in 1960. He won the Canadian National in Class B in 1959, and repeated in 1960, in both A and B. In the latter year, he scored six firsts at the big regatta at Valleyfield, an unprecedented score. In all, in that year, he competed in 35 races, winning 25, and scoring second in seven others. David is still competing, although he has started a professional course in Philadelphia, following his father's career of medicine.

Baseball in summer and basketball in winter are the popular sports; and skiing has begun to attract crowds, although our area is too level to offer any skiways; hence the enthusiasts must travel to Canada or to the Adirondacks. Teams in both ball games belong in the regional leagues for high schools, and there are town contests in summer, with teams of neighboring towns. Some of the more proficient players, such as John Mulvana, a pitcher, and Jack Duncan, an infielder, have attracted attention from big league scouts. Duncan played during the past season with a farm team of the New York Yankees. Hockey, too, is a popular sport, and the Fort Covington High School team has repeatedly won the championship of the Franklin-St. Lawrence league, and graduates, such as "Bobby" Regan and William Macartney, Jr., have distinguished themselves on college teams.

In 1939-40, dart baseball was very popular during the winter months. A league of ten teams was formed, each team representing a church congregation or a group of businessmen; there was a schedule of 54 games; Joseph Baginski was president, and Dick Cappiello was secretary-treasurer. The fever spread to the ladies; they formed a six-team league,

whose happy activities were recorded in humorous verses by Catherine Webb of Fort Covington. About the same time, a badminton league was formed, largely through the efforts of Cameron Farquhar.

The villages boast numerous devotees of indoor games, such as bridge, and parties frequently take part in tournaments as far away as Montreal. Don Matteson is known as one of the most expert players. In short, there is plenty of recreation here at all seasons, and many of all ages to share it.

Aviation has interested our people like those of every American community, but at this time (1962) the only residents of the Three Towns to have acquired a plane are Roger Clary and Franklin Worcester of South Bombay, who jointly own a two-seater plane. Several of the boys served in the United States or Canadian Air Forces during the World War II, and some of them continued in the service. Among these were J. Raymond Ranger, Gibson Coyle, and Daniel Cross. First Lieutenant Ranger, the only son of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Ranger (Raw-zhay), was graduated from Fort Covington High School in 1939. He entered the service in November, 1942, and received his wings a year later at Aloe Field, Texas. After serving as instructor in air strategy, he was sent to the Far East and was based on Iwo Jima. He was killed in action over Japan on July 15, 1945. A letter received by his parents stated that Ray was listed on his group chart as one of the two best flight leaders they had. Gibson Coyle, a son of Agnes Taillon, served in the war, but I have been unable to get details of his service. He has recently retired, and lives in Texas.

Bowling has become popular in this area in recent years, and several teams compete weekly.

Important business changes occurred in the Three Towns during this period, and probably the most important of these was in Bombay, where the Shields family, who had been the principal retailers there since about 1880, discontinued their general store and concentrated on the manufacture of footwear, particularly fancy slippers. In 1931, Shields Brothers changed to Shields Consolidated, and in

1940 to the Consolidated Slipper Corporation, under the direction of Joseph A. Dingle, who is now president. Mr. Dingle came from Illinois in 1929, and married Mabel, daughter of A. H. McNair, long-time miller of Fort Covington. Their son, Joseph, Jr., a graduate of Hobart College, and formerly in the U. S. Air Corps, is in the corporation. The factory, equipped with up-to-date machinery, does an annual business of about \$3,000,000, using the brand name "Pocahontas." About 325 workers are employed, of whom approximately 80% are women; the majority, Indians.

At one time, the making of sweet-grass baskets, a traditional craft among the Indians, was promoted by various firms in this area, among them McKinnon in Hogsburg and Al Daley in Fort Covington. That has almost ceased, due partly to the decline in the supply of grass from the salt meadows, and more to the high wages that Indian families can now earn.

Problems arose out of increased demand for modern conveniences, such as electric lighting, piped water and sewer service. The water power at the lower dam on the Big Salmon, where the Wright mill formerly stood, was developed for electricity by Patrick Keefe (no relative to the Keefes discussed before), who came to Fort Covington from Iroquois, Ontario, in the year 1902, and spent the rest of his life here, a familiar and well-liked figure. He installed lights at the modest charge of \$2 each per year, and only a half-dollar more for store lamps. The result, according to Seaver, was that "Fort Covington always has the appearance of being one of the best-lighted villages in northern New York;" that was said in 1917, and whether it still holds true, I am not prepared to say; but the SUN of Jan. 9, 1958, quotes Mayor Cappiello as saying that 96 new street lamps had recently been installed, at an annual rental of \$239.61 per month. Patrick Keefe's business was continued by his son, William S. H., who eventually sold the rights and property to the Niagara Power and Light Company, whose offices are in Malone.

Drinking water has posed something of a problem for the people of Fort Covington village since the abandonment

of the wells which formerly were attached to most residences. In the 1930s, the village had a drilled well, which, according to the SUN, "has been the nightmare of all people," because of the extreme hardness and sulphur taste and smell of the water. In other parts of the village drilled wells produced excellent water. Therefore, in 1942, a new well was drilled on Covington Hill to a depth of 197 feet, which has solved the problem to a great extent.

The draft and relief situations caused by World War II caused problems for various towns, which were met, in part, by extraordinary local action. Fort Covington purchased a wood lot in South Bombay, on which 500 cords of white birch was cut, and several thousand feet of needed lumber procured for the town's highway department. About twenty men were employed, and they were paid \$1 a day if working in the woods, and 50 cents a cord for cutting the wood to stove length, none being allowed to earn more than \$5 a week. This took the place of work relief orders issued without doing work, and it was welcomed by both the unemployed and the hard-pressed taxpayers.



Salmon River Yacht Club Club House, Fort Covington

29 THE COMING OF THE SEAWAY

The St. Lawrence River has always played an outstanding role in the life of Three Towns, but almost entirely in a social way — a source of relaxation and pleasure. William Hogle was our only resident who ever profited financially to any notable degree from shipping on the great river, and that only for a short time, as we have seen. Nevertheless, our people have always watched closely the long discussions that went on for many years in the press and in Congress over plans to utilize the St. Lawrence for power development and for commerce on a world-wide scale. Some had visions of our being transformed into suburbs of an industrial center, as the villages around Detroit were; others dreaded such a possibility, preferring the continuance of the “peace and quiet” of a rural community. Within the past ten years, the long-pending possibility has come closer to being a reality through the completion of the building of the St. Lawrence Seaway, which opened for business on April 25, 1959. While no part of the seaway actually lies within our towns, it is so near us, and we have been led to expect that, in the future, it may completely change our life. Therefore, I think it worth while to present concisely the story of the Seaway up to this time.

The St. Lawrence — which its first European explorer, the Frenchman, Jacques Cartier, always called “the River of Canada,” — is one of the greatest rivers of the world, discharging 236,000 cubic feet per second from Lake Ontario. It is literally the access to the heart of our continent, leading directly from the Atlantic Ocean to the five Great Lakes, and to a multitude of smaller lakes and rivers throughout Canada, and extending to the Mississippi system. For generations past, it has carried countless quantities of ore, lumber, and other products from those areas to Europe to be manufactured, and has brought in from Europe finished goods necessary for the existence of our people. Its transit

is clear and unimpeded — except by ice in winter — as far up as Montreal, a distance of 620 miles from the sea.

Above Montreal, however, serious difficulties begin. From Montreal to St. Regis, a distance of 66 miles, there are — or were — a series of rapids, including the Lachine, the Soulanges and the Long Sault (“Soo”), which were dangerous to navigate except by experienced pilots, and which limited passage to boats having a draft of fourteen feet or less. From St. Regis to Ogdensburg, 44 miles, are the International Rapids, ending in a natural weir at Chimney Point near Ogdensburg, which used to keep the outflow from Lake Ontario at between 242 and 249 feet above sea level. Here the great river has a rise of 226 feet; enough to generate an amount of power almost unequalled elsewhere.

It was realized, long ago, that alterations in the river would permit enormous expansion in both commerce and power; but the great investment involved and the problem of satisfying both Canada and the United States as to an equitable division of the profits deterred private capital from attempting it. The most persistent advocates of a new international seaway were the shippers of the Middle Western ports — Chicago, Duluth, Milwaukee, Cleveland and others — while the shippers of the south and east fought the idea, fearing the loss of trade for their ports, and charging that the seaway would benefit only 17 states, inhabited by less than half the people of the country. That argument prevailed for many years, though every U. S. president beginning with Woodrow Wilson advocated governmental aid to build the seaway. Congressman Bertrand H. Snell, of Potsdam, fought staunchly for the plan, and his efforts are commemorated by naming one of the locks after him. At a banquet in Massena in November, 1939, Maurice P. Davidson, trustee of the Federal Power Authority, declared that the political prospects for an international agreement were changing, due largely to industrial activity stimulated by the war. Mr. Reed compared the seaway project to Tennessee Valley Authority, Boulder Dam, and Grand Coulee, and prophesied that it would give work to 800,000 men.

Finally, in 1953, the Federal Power Commission gave the New York State Power Authority a license to start work, and this was upheld by the U. S. Supreme Court, the following year. In January, 1954, the U. S. Senate passed, 56-33, the Wiley-Dondero bill establishing the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation to cooperate with the Seaway Authority of Canada in the construction of a seaway. The last legal obstacle was overcome when the House of Representatives passed the bill May 6, 1954, by 241 to 158. It was signed by President Eisenhower on May 13. On Sept. 2, the Seaway Corporation designated the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers to supervise the building of the American part.

Robert Moses for the U. S. and Robert H. Saunders for Canada took charge of the plans for construction, and were loyally supported by the Canadian Prime Ministers and by New York's Governors Dewey, Harriman and Rockefeller. After Saunders' unfortunate death in an accident, his place was capably filled by Richard L. Hearn and James S. Duncan, who was chairman from November, 1956. There were serious moments during the progress of the work, when opposing plans had to be reconciled or overridden. Perhaps the most critical of these was the decision to allot a considerable share of the power wattage developed to the Reynolds Metal Company, over the objections of the Aluminum Company of America — "Alcoa" — which had been operating in Massena for some fifty years. The decision of Governor Harriman to sign that contract was eventually assured by his learning that the General Motors Corporation would build a casting plant nearby, also. The Reynolds people invested \$88,000,000; General Motors, \$15,000,000; and Alcoa \$25,000,000 in modernizing its plant. These three companies were allotted 386,000 of the 735,000 kilowatts originally estimated as the power production that might be depended upon as the U. S. half of the production. Other shares of the energy were awarded to the state of Vermont, the Plattsburg Base of the U. S. Air Force, and to various cities and villages — none within the Three Towns. The Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation, which had once thought of developing St. Lawrence power itself, was

awarded 136,000 kilowatts of public power, and New York State Electric and Gas Corporation, 20,000.

The actual work of building the Seaway was begun in 1954, and the major portion of it was finished by 1958. Robert Moses, with his characteristic energy and bull-dog determination, devised plans which are estimated to have saved two years of work. By the end of 1960, the Annual Report of the Seaway Corporation estimated that 97 per cent of the construction was completed then. "The cost of the U. S. portion of the Seaway, including interest during construction, is now estimated to be \$130.5 million."

The chief parts of the Seaway, on the American side, are the two new locks — Eisenhower and Snell — the ten-mile canal — Wiley-Dondero Canal — the Long Sault Dam, officially named Moses-Saunders Dam, which is the longest cofferdam in the world; the southern half of the powerhouse at the lower end of Barnhart Island, which was built by the New York State Power Authority; Lake St. Lawrence, 30 miles long, a beautiful body of water created by raising the level of the St. Lawrence and eliminating the former Long Sault Rapids; and St. Lawrence Park, an attractive modern recreation area, on Barnhart Island. Of these, the powerhouse is the heart of the Seaway. It runs from Barnhart Island to the Ontario shore at Cornwall. It is the highest of the dams — 167 feet on the upstream face. The station has 37 generators, each capable of turning out a maximum of 57,000 kilowatts. Three miles west of this is the graceful Long Sault Dam, which, with the Iroquois dam, about 30 miles upstream, maintain the level of the new artificial Lake St. Lawrence. Before that lake could be flooded, some 225 farm families and 500 cottage owners were displaced on the American side, but a great many more on the Canadian side — in fact, eight small communities were entirely evacuated, and relocated by the Canadian government; historical Chrysler's Field, famous in the War of 1812 was submerged. Among homes on the American side inundated was that of Harland R. Horton, who then settled in Fort Covington, and whose activity as County Historian has been most helpful in the compiling of this book.

The two new American locks went into use on July 4, 1958. By the time of closing navigation that year, 5,289 vessels had transited; during the following year, 6,595. The tonnage of the ships passing through in 1958 was approximately 20 million; it is hoped that it will increase to 50 million by 1968. All locks are filled and emptied by gravity.

Seaway construction cost \$470 million. United States contributed \$140 million, Canada the remainder. The State of New York also invested \$335 million.

It is planned to recover the federal investment in 50 years or less, from tolls paid by vessels passing through, and by fees for power. The Annual Report for 1960 says that the operating costs for that year were \$1,224,900, and the revenues were \$3,115,000. In October, 1961, the tonnage passing through the Canal was 13.2 per cent higher than that of the preceding October. It is expected that each successive year will see a steady, if not a sensational, gain.

Such is the Seaway, which, we are told, is likely to transform our Three Towns completely in the future. It must be said that, up to this time, it has had no marked effect here. Massena village had quite a "boom," while the work described above was going on; in August, 1957, there were 6,672 jobs listed on the American side. But the number of these filled by people from our area was relatively small — the great majority came, as their predecessors in the Alcoa plant had — from big cities through employment agencies, often staying but a few weeks. When the "boom" ended, local men who had neglected their farms or other work for a temporary job at Massena found readjustment hard.

There has been, of course, a considerable gain in the recreational and social activity of the area. It is relatively easy for the residents of the Three Towns and their summer guests to drive to Massena and view the various installations we have named, possibly watching a program which is presented frequently in the Administration Building, or enjoying a picnic at the State Park public beach. Massena, too, has a number of swanky hotels and motels at commensurate prices, and it is not likely that anything in our Three Towns will vie with them in the foreseeable future.

30

THE SALMON CENTRAL SCHOOL

A project of much greater interest than the Seaway to the people of the Three Towns involved a great share of their attention during the 1950s, and its solution has already effected sweeping changes in their lives and promises more in the future. That was the centralization of the public schools into the new Salmon Central School, and the accompanying closing of the traditional district schools and the high schools at Fort Covington and Bombay.

Franklin County was one of the last counties in New York State to centralize its rural schools. A black-and-white map of the state north of New York City, corrected up to January 1, 1953, shows the overwhelming preponderance of black territory, which was the area whose rural schools were already centralized. Outside of Franklin, only Hamilton, Herkimer, Lewis and a few other counties further south were still conducting district "one room" schools. Four hundred and forty-five central school districts were already in operation, as against "former districts, 7,250." The caption beside the map reads: "Can over 90% of the people of the rural areas of New York State be wrong?" This map was part of a brochure entitled "Proposed Centralization Plan for Bombay, Fort Covington, Hogansburg and Westville," and states that it "Represents results of a joint study made by the Boards of Education of Bombay and Fort Covington with the State Education Department."

On March 30, 1950, the SUN published a report written by Dr. Philip Gorman, then president of the Fort Covington High School Board of Education, telling the proceedings of a two-day meeting in Albany at which he and fourteen other representatives of the 24 school districts in the Three Towns and Brasher had listened to state education experts explain the procedure necessary to get centralization, and the advantages supposed to come from it. It is evident from the doctor's final paragraphs that he was not favorably im-

pressed by some of the proceedings, and was reserving judgment on the wisdom of the change. He admitted, however, the "need for the community to explore the possibilities of centralization." This touched off a campaign which, for several years, excited the community as nothing had done in modern times, threatened lifelong friendships, and brought noticeable changes of many kinds.

The advantages claimed by the advocates of centralization were:

1. It would standardize the education program of all the districts, and give all pupils equal facilities;
2. It would open kindergarten instruction to all;
3. It would provide art, music, library, health and physical education for all; dental hygiene and nurse service;
4. There would be a cafeteria, providing lunch at low cost;
5. Modern laboratories would be established;
6. Programs in commerce, agriculture, homemaking and music would be expanded;
7. Classes would approximate 25 pupils each in size;
8. The state would furnish extra aid for operating costs, and additional state aid based on a size-correction factor.

The opponents of centralization argued that it was unnecessary and extravagantly expensive. They said it would result in very high taxes. They charged that "state aid" was a delusion; that all the money must eventually come from the taxpayers; they pointed out that Franklin County is one of the poor counties in the state, its taxpayers' annual income being officially listed as \$1,119 per capita, against a statewide average of \$2,158. They also criticized some of the "improvements" cited above as "frills," not necessary to real education; and, finally, they declared that the investing of a much smaller sum in existing school plants would bring results that would be entirely satisfactory.

The ensuing campaign was a lively one, even bitter in some aspects. Committees were formed on both sides, and outside help was solicited, which for the most part took the form of literature issued for or against centralization by such groups as the National Citizens Committee for Public

Schools, having headquarters in New York City. A committee actively promoted by Frank Hoar, and calling itself the "Central School Citizens' Committee" agitated for centralization, and obtained much support in Bombay. A "Committee for Decentralization," in which Frank Cosgrove, Charles Dempsey and Messrs. Shane, Ferris, Blair and Trippany were leaders, opposed the suggested change and was strongly supported in Fort Covington. A plan providing for a junior-senior high school to house 415 pupils, estimated to cost \$1,200,000, and an additional \$100,000 to renovate the old high schools was altered to provide for the abandonment of the old schools.

On November 25, 1953, State Education Commissioner James E. Allen issued an order laying out a Central School District including the towns of Fort Covington, Bombay, Westville — except district 7 — and Brasher districts 1 and 2. A vote was ordered to be held on Dec. 21 at Firemen's Hall, Fort Covington. The order was approved by a vote of 705 to 155, but many voters changed their positions later. Dr. Philip Gorman was elected president of the new Central District Board, the other members being Joseph H. Dingle, J. Edward Cosgrove and Francis E. Donahue of Bombay, Harold Brockway and Romeo Remillard of Fort Covington, and Floyd Holbert of Westville.

As it became apparent that centralization was inevitable, a new issue entered into the campaign. This was the choice of a site for the new school. Two adjoining lots on the Fort Covington Centre road, parts of the old Peck and Mears farms, but owned at this time by Clarence and Leroy Elliott and Richard Keeler, were strongly favored by Fort Covington village people, but their selection was strongly opposed by the Hoar committee, which conducted a vigorous speaking and newspaper campaign, and stressed also the desirability of providing bus service from all homes in the district. Dr. Gorman, who had long advocated centralization, and who had been president of the local board for fourteen years, issued a statement urging all to vote in the referendum set for July 20, and to vote for the Elliott-Keeler site. When the vote defeated that site by a vote of 709-543, Dr. Gorman

resigned as president of the board, and was succeeded by Joseph Dingle; Harold Lamay succeeded Dr. Gorman as trustee.

The next site considered was an area near Frye's Corners, favored by Bombay residents, especially. A parcel of 137 acres, the Harlie Smith farm, was offered for \$6,000, and the vote was set for October 15 in Bombay. Tension continued to mount. Over 600 names were signed to a petition asking for decentralization, but the State Education Department replied that only an act of the legislature could decentralize. A group calling itself "The No Name Club" denounced that decision and urged all to vote "No" in the referendum. Two weeks of feverish activity preceded the meeting, which, however, was orderly though exciting. 1,292 votes were cast, of which twenty were thrown out as void. By the narrow margin of four votes, the Frye's Corners site was rejected — 634 to 638. So high did tempers rise that the four Catholic priests of this area joined in a statement of their absolute neutrality as to a site; and Assemblyman Main proposed that a "fact-finding committee" of three from each side meet at Albany with the state officials. Mr. Main based his suggestion on his feeling that there "has been a great deal of confusion regarding costs and estimates. . . ." Both sides eventually agreed to his proposal, and named their delegates. The meeting was held in Albany on February 2, 1955, when both sides were well represented, but it proved difficult to get definite answers as to the new equalization rates proposed by the state, or the length of time for which the district should contract to pay.

The Board of Education now turned to a site on the Bombay road, about one mile west of Fort Covington village. It comprised about 50 acres, parts of the farms owned by Edward Gardner and Raymond Smiddy. The price of the land was \$5,000. The vote on buying this was held in Firemen's Hall in Fort Covington on January 7, 1955, Frank Hoar acting as chairman. Severe weather and icy roads prevented many from getting to the polls, the total vote being less than two-thirds that cast at either of the previous referenda. The purchase of the site was approved

by a vote of 429 to 393. This ended a "gruelling eight-month battle," and made the actual construction of the new school imminent.

Now a question of integration presented itself. On the St. Regis Reservation, 429 Indian children were being educated, and there was for a time some doubt that these would be taken into the Central School system; but conferences with State Education Department officials finally resolved the problem by providing for their continued education, for which the state pays \$159 per pupil in the existing St. Regis Mohawk School until their completion of the sixth grade, after which they are transferred to the new Central School, with bus privileges, free text-books and all. In June, 1962, a class of 38 was graduated here under Principal James V. Correnti.

The Board of Education next agreed on the sum of \$1,825,000 as the amount of the bond issue to be submitted to the voters, which must be approved by them before starting work on the new school. A brochure entitled "Facts and Figures" was published, for the information of voters. This brochure contained pictures and drawings prepared by the architects, giving their estimates of the appearance of the new structure, and full details as to its facilities — arrangement of rooms, etc. The new equalization rates "whose full effects will not be felt for six years" were discussed; the prediction was made that the tax rate would drop from \$20 per thousand to \$12.60 per thousand, "when the new values go into effect." The sum of \$73,915 was to be raised in taxes by the district over a period of six years. "Sixty-eight percent, or \$1,241,000 of the total cost of this building project, will be paid by the state." No provision for a school garage was included, as it was uncertain whether the citizens might not prefer private transportation.

On May 27, 1955, the voters, in a remarkably light vote, approved the bond issue by a vote of 427 to 104, and the way was at last clear to start the construction of the new K-12 school, already officially named the Salmon Central School. The amount of money involved was the largest ever involved in the Three Towns.

Two years later, the voters approved, by an overwhelming majority, an additional bond issue of \$775,000, which was earmarked to be used as follows: \$206,000 for twelve new classrooms; \$219,000 to meet a rise in building costs during the two years; \$90,000 for a bus garage, plus \$20,000 for its landscaping and equipment; \$150,000 for a swimming pool; \$45,000 for increased architects' fees; and \$45,000 miscellaneous. The taxpayers were evidently convinced by the assurance that they would only have to pay about \$400,000 for their large school, that the state would assume two-thirds of the cost of construction.

The bond issue of slightly over \$2,614,000 was awarded to Marine Trust Company of Buffalo, at an interest rate of 4.1%. Three New York City firms had submitted more costly bids. Included in the budget under the head of "Debt Service" was a total of \$182,375. The total expenditures for the year 1956-7 were \$1,133,865. Among the large items were:

Salaries of principals	\$ 33,000.00
Salaries of teachers, Grades K-6	\$176,655.50
Salaries of teachers, Grades K-12	\$ 85,886.25
Salaries of custodians and others	\$ 16,175.57
Fuel	\$ 17,152.34
Repair and Replacement	\$ 93,573.52
Library Service	\$ 18,500.00
Pensions and Social Security	\$ 84,000.00
Transportation of pupils	\$ 75,000.00
School lunch	\$ 14,000.00

Construction of the new school buildings began early in 1956. The architects were the Watertown firm of Sargent, Webster, Crenshaw and Folley. The contractors were: Structural steel — Utica Steam Engine and Boiler Works; General Construction — A. Friederich & Sons Co.; Plumbing — George H. Hyde; Electrical — W. W. Gettys; Heating — Tougher Heating and Plumbing Co.; Swimming Pool — L. F. Murtagh and Sons. During 1957, work of all kinds was pressed energetically, slowed down only occasionally by weather difficulties; and by August 1, the work was re-

ported 80% done. Meantime, the Board of Education disposed of many necessary details, including the purchase of seats and other furniture, the acquisition of twelve buses of the newest type at a cost of \$7,250 apiece, adjustment of teachers' salaries, which were to receive increments of not less than \$160 each per annum, and the adoption of social security.

On Sunday, February 2, 1958, the school buildings were opened for inspection by adult visitors, and the largest crowd at any single event in the history of the Three Towns flocked to the school. They were conducted on guided tours to see all the facilities, which were declared to be equal to anything of the kind in the state.

In "A Summary of What the Building Offers," the following details were named:

1. Auditorium — a much-needed meeting place for following community activities; seating over 600.
2. Gymnasium — a 96' by 78' gymnasium seating 800 people on roll-away bleachers; folding partition that will separate the gym for required physical education classes.
3. An elementary playroom 36' by 52' for small children.
4. Both elementary and secondary libraries.
5. Both elementary and secondary cafeterias serviced from a central kitchen.
6. An industrial arts shop to prepare boys for future jobs
7. Agriculture shop and classroom.
8. Homemaking suite with up-to-date teaching facilities.
9. Science room for proper instruction in physics, biology and earth science, needed in this scientific age.
10. Thirty-five modern classrooms — 21 elementary and 14 secondary; not including special rooms.

Building is designed so that additions can be readily and economically made.

The first occasion when Salmon Central auditorium was

publicly used was on March 28, 1958, for a play "Finders Creepers" by the high school seniors.

The building was dedicated on Sunday, May 25, 1958, with exercises which were largely attended. It had been used by classes since February previous. After receiving the keys from the superintendent representing the general contractors, the architect presented them to Katherine Sullivan, president of the Salmon River Central School Teachers Association. A formal address was delivered by Dr. Arthur W. Schmidt, of the State Education Department. Short talks of appreciation were made by Clifford M. Berry, district superintendent of schools; Harry J. Weir, principal of the high school; and Thomas C. Cavanaugh, supervising principal. Mr. Weir had been principal of the Fort Covington High School for 35 years, and Mr. Cavanaugh had been principal of the Bombay High School.

When the Fort Covington High School ceased operations, there were 424 pupils in the building, 106 of them in high school grades. The Bombay High School had about 100 pupils at the same time.

The assessed valuation of the constituent towns in the Central School District was changed several times, as were the equalization rates. These latter varied, for 1959-60, from 33% in Fort Covington to 69% in Westville. The "true valuation" of property was given as follows: Bombay, \$2,098,382; Fort Covington, \$2,667,033; Westville, \$987,026. These figures were changed in the 1960-61 tax report to: Bombay, \$2,453,493; Fort Covington, \$3,385,080; Westville, same as previous year.

The appraisal of property values by the state, and consequent revision of equalizing rates downward, said Mr. Cavanaugh at the July, 1962, budget meeting, tends to increase the amount raised by taxation in the district; last year, \$78,000; this year, \$85,000. The 1962-63 budget was approved, 94-5.

The voters of former school district No. 1 gave the historic old building and its contents to the village of Fort Covington, the land to be used as a playground. "Dick" Cappiello was mayor of the village at that time, and, seeing

the danger of possible looting of the unguarded building, he took steps to save the equipment. The books in the library were distributed mostly among village families who applied for them, a fitting gesture which pleased many who had been pupils there. The seats, blackboards and lights were sold for about \$2900, which maintained the playground and skating rink for about three years. The boiler and motors were given to the fire company. The equipment of the agriculture shop was transferred to the new building. Eventually, the old school was dismantled, and parts of it are now in use in many buildings around the town.

The various district school buildings were for the most part sold to private buyers, and many of them have become very comfortable homes. Levi Smythe bought the schoolhouse in District 3 (Drum Street) and Howard Yadow bought the one in District 6; Westville No. 5 was sold to Edward Cushman, and Bombay No. 6 to Arthur Durant. A keen difference of opinion developed in Bombay over the disposal of the former high school. Successive proposals to turn it over to the local fire department or to the town (for a recreation center) were rejected by the voters. The building and contents were finally sold to Ronald Collette for \$2,051.99; but it was soon after destroyed by fire, as told elsewhere.

The first graduation exercises of Salmon Central were held on June 23, 1958. Forty-five students received diplomas. Dr. Frederick W. Crumb, president of the Teachers College at Potsdam, gave the address to the graduates, and prophesied that within three years senior classes would be twice as big. His prophesy has not been fulfilled; the Class of '59 numbered 38; that of '60, 52; that of '61, 55; that of '62, 68. The first valedictorian was Lorna Eldred, the first salutorian, Laurie Holbert. Since then, valedictorians have been Sandra Kebbe, Daniel Eldred, Carolyn Smillie and James Keefe; salutatorians — Judy Letray, Lillian Stark, Kay Boyea, Carol Correnti.

District 9 of Westville was admitted to Salmon Central District in April, 1960. St. Regis Mohak School, which was built in 1937, has an addition which was built in 1954. This

school takes care of 400 elementary school pupils of the St. Regis Reservation. Harold Miller of Bridgeport has given the school a permanent endowment of \$2,500.

Harry J. Weir retired as principal of Salmon Central in June, 1961, after completing 35 years in our school system. His retirement was signalized by a testimonial dinner at the school, with over 500 present. A Harry J. Weir Scholarship fund was set up with an initial endowment of \$2200, to be used for the encouragement of prospective teachers. Mr. Weir is succeeded by Thomas C. Cavanaugh, who had been principal of Bombay High School, as Supervising Principal; Jesse Sherwood is principal of the high school; and Ronald Bombard of the lower grades. Charles Bartlett is school psychologist, working in four schools.

In May, 1959, Joseph Dingle retired as president of the Board of Education, and was succeeded by Kenneth W. Stewart, and he later by Francis E. Donahue.

In 1959, a two-way radio system for buses was bought at an expense to the district of \$6,500; it is one of the first in the state. Bus drivers are paid \$2,000 a year. The school has been used for immunization clinics conducted by the state for polio, diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough, serving Three Towns residents up to 40 years of age.

Other services offered to the community include adult education classes in typewriting, shorthand, conversational French, swimming, life-saving, ceramics, sewing, Americanization for the foreign-born, and completion of courses equivalent to high school graduation. We also take advantage of circulating libraries, the Clinton-Essex library service having been extended to Franklin County this year.

The activities of the pupils of this school — all, of course, supervised by teachers — are so varied as to make it difficult to list them all. Among them are included:

The school band, which competes and has made a creditable record in state-sponsored festivals. A Band Parents Association has been formed, which held a banquet in June, 1962, at which awards were conferred and individual grants of \$30 made, to enable students to take outside instruction. Trips have been made to Cornell College

of Agriculture, to airports and to judging contests of Holstein-Frisian Breeding Association, of which several boys have qualified as members. A Rifle and Pistol Club was formed in April, '61. A new shooting range, 30 by 75 feet, is located in the basement, and served by fluorescent lighting; five rifles are school property. In baseball, basketball and football, school teams compete in the Franklin-St. Lawrence and the Tri-County leagues, respectively. Their arch-rival is the St. Lawrence Central School. In the field of book scholarship, a branch of the National Honor Society encourages good students to aim at the best, while supervised study after school helps less proficient pupils to improve their work. Panel discussions are held, at which students hear about college life. The school's graduates have made a very creditable record in winning scholarships. Among winners have been Sandra Kebbe, Daniel Eldred, Susan Gorman, Carolyn Smillie, Kay Boyea, Bruce Thebert, Carol LaFrance, John Keefe, James Bullard, I. A. Jenkins, John Armstrong and Claudia Benware; the last three were given special scholarships in teacher education, science and nursing, respectively. The Senior Play gives opportunity for cultivating dramatic talent, and the annual classbook is excellent. The finances of all student activities including the senior class, the athletic association, the music account, the bookstore and the cafeteria, are checked and reported by the Extraclassroom Activity Fund.

In 1960-61, the cafeteria employed twelve women, under the direction of Sarah Hanley, dietitian. Miss Hanley was president of the Franklin County School Foods Association, and instructor in the Plattsburgh home economics summer course. School lunch menus are published weekly in the SUN. Cafeteria receipts for 1959-60 exceeded \$70,000.

It is thus evident that Three Towns young people have school advantages undreamed of by their predecessors.

Despite these generous provisions, the rapid growth of pupil enrolment over-crowded original facilities so fast that a new project involving nearly a million-and-a-half dollars was voted on, April 8, 1963, and approved by 2 to 1. The decisive factor was assurance that "90% of the total principal

and interest payments . . . will become a state obligation". This money is to be spent for:

1. Constructing a new junior-high school building, costing \$1,285,000;
2. Enlarging the bus garage;
3. A biology laboratory, and modifying classrooms.

The problem of obtaining and retaining teachers in view of the competition with all parts of the state, with communities vying with each other in salaries, places a heavy burden on the school officials. There is a noticeable turnover in the roster of teachers, quite a number leaving each year. The bulk of the new arrivals are young people from neighboring counties, many being graduates of the teachers colleges at Potsdam and Plattsburgh. An examination of the list of teachers, taken in June, 1961, showed the following statistics of teachers and other employees: local residents, 101; out of town residents, 30; not determined, 14.

The salary schedules for 1962-63, as released by the Board, ranged from a beginning of \$5,000 for training class graduates in Step 1, to \$8,000 for teachers with a bachelor's degree plus 30 hours in Step 14. Salaries are automatic through Step 10 under state law, with the district permitted to raise or lower as district financial conditions warrant.

There are at present 90 teachers, of whom two have Ph.D. degrees; 25 have M.A.; 52, B.S. or B.A.; 11 have Normal or Life certificates. All teachers are members of the New York State Teachers Association. Nearly all belong to organizations in their subject fields. A few belong to the National Education Association.

The 1961-2 Salmon Central School budget was \$1,203,508; for 1962-3 is \$1,408,102. Enrollment is 1,600.

Such, then, is the present situation of the Three Towns as to public education. It is obvious that, together with the parochial schools, it furnishes complete educational opportunities to every child in the area, and that these facilities are being used by children and parents alike.

The figures I have presented, and many others that might be quoted, all emphasize the fact that Salmon Central School is not only the outstanding social factor here, and

bound to revolutionize community life, but is also the largest business factor in the Three Towns. The sums paid out for its maintenance, for salaries and services, are colossal, compared to anything that has been spent here in the past. They are bound to set standards hard for private industry to match; and it will be interesting for the "rising generation" to see whether the Seaway industries or other resources can put the future economy of the Three Towns on such a high plane. In the meantime, the people are enjoying "the goods that the gods" — in this case, the State of New York — "provide," and hoping that these will be permanent.



District School at the West End of Hogansburg. Typical of The School Buildings of its Time

31

THE NEWER RESIDENTS

The bulk of this history has been concerned with the activities of men and women whose names are in many cases not found in the Three Towns of today. While there still are McElwains, Wilsons, Dempseys, Denneens and other descendants of old families to be found in Fort Covington; Averys, Rowleys, Rockhills and Berrys in Westville; Lantrys, Beros, Crosses and Shields in Bombay, there are now many in each town whose families have settled here in the last 30 or 40 years, and who are now, or are about to become the active leaders and workers of these communities. It will, unfortunately, not be possible for me to include and to give due mention to all these newer residents, but my story would not be complete without telling something about men now prominent in the Three Towns, whose families have not already been described.

Kenneth W. Stewart is a native of Westville, the son of John S. Stewart and Dora, daughter of Guy Hollister and Elizabeth Cushman. Mr. Stewart is married to the former Lucille Charette, of Fort Covington. They have one son and one daughter. Mr. Stewart came to Fort Covington and bought the former Kelsey store, in 1947. He owns and operates the I. G. A. Supermarket which bears his name. He was Supervisor from 1951 to 1956, and is a long-time member of the Salmon Central Board of Education, of which he has been president.

Charles Finch came from Jay, N. Y., about 1943. He married Stella, daughter of the late Allie Cushman, and owns the farm which was the former Brill place. He has been Superintendent of Highways, and is now in his second term as Supervisor of the town.

Lucian LaTulippe is a son of Alphonse LaTulippe of Ste. Agnes, one of many Canadians who moved across the Line, who lives on the former Dan McKenna farm. Lucien

lives in the old "Wat" Parker house, and works at Alcoa in Massena. He has two children.

George Smillie came from Dundee about 1932, when he bought the Ford agency from Bernard Boyea. After operating that successfully for a generation, he sold it to Roger Brewer in 1957, and is now associated with the Volkswagon agency in Massena. Mr. Smillie lives in a new residence which he erected a few years ago, on Covington Street. He has three daughters — Ann (Mrs. John Hall), Carolyn and Sandra.

Robert Vincelette is a son of Charles, who was station agent and telegraph operator for the Canadian National Railroad. Robert is also in the employ of the railroad. He and his wife, the former Joanne Mainville, have three children.

Romeo Remillard came from Peru, N. Y. and Chateaugay, to manage the A & P store, which was closed about 1945. He now conducts a liquor store in the old bank building on Chateaugay Street, and is an employee of the School Board, as told elsewhere. He has a son, Mark.

Don Matteson came from DeKalb. He is a graduate of St. Lawrence University. He succeeded John Lacombe as deputy collector of customs at this port. Mr. Matteson is unmarried and has made his home for years with Mr. and Mrs. Ben Derouchie. He recently received his pin testifying to 35 years of government service.

Roger Lucas has also served over 30 years in the customs service. He came originally from the Champlain area. His wife is Ethel, daughter of Fred Ashley and Clara Gleason; they have one daughter, Elaine.

Ray Bessette came to Fort Covington in 1952, after six years of service in the Customs at Trout River. He is a native of Malone, and a veteran of five and a half years service in World War II. He conducts a tourist home on West Chateaugay Street, in the former Dr. Merrick house. He has one son and one daughter.

Erwin Phillips came from Malone. He bought the long-established funeral parlor business owned in recent years by Frank Cosgrove, but originally connected with the old-time

family of the Courtneys. Mrs. Phillips was from Buffalo. They have three sons and one daughter.

Alfred J. Laraby was in the Customs service for forty years, until his recent retirement. He came to the Fort in 1927, and has been very active. His early home was at Norwood. He is widely known for his activity in Masonic and Grange circles, in which he has attained the highest honors available in this area. He served nine years on the Board of Education, and is a trustee of the Methodist church.

Henry Keeler came from Moira about 1940. Richard, his son, is employed at the Reynolds plant in Massena; he is married to Dorothy Cappiello, and has one child.

William Boyle was originally from Massachusetts, and came here in the Customs service. He married Mae Peets, of Brushton. Their home is on Pike Street, the former residence of R. F. MacDonald. They have four sons, two of whom are teachers, graduates of Fordham University, who have made excellent records in scholarship and education. Mrs. Boyle has been for several years the organist of St. Mary's Church.

Hector Foisy was a harnessmaker, the only local representative of an occupation that was very essential in pioneer days. Mr. Foisy came as a boy from Cazaville, and lived at Father Desjardins' while going to school. He married Lottie Haines, and their home is on the Malone Road. Mr. Foisy now conducts a shoe store.

Joseph Fullum, who died in 1959, was a conductor on the Canadian National Railway for many years. Fernand Fullum, of Bombay, is his son.

Francis Dineen came from St. Anicet in 1960, and bought the well-known Thomas Dupree farm on the Malone Road, where he lives.

Roger Brewer is a native of Greene, N. Y. He came here in 1957, and purchased the local Ford agency and the Ideal Garage. He re-established the business conducted for many years by Tommy Lowe, on the Hogansburg Road. He has recently installed a coin laundromat in part of the Ideal Garage building, and shows himself in many ways a progressive businessman. At a recent Winter Carnival in

Malone, Mr. Brewer was called upon to escort "Miss New York State," and was cited as "Franklin County's Most Eligible Bachelor."

Otto Kohout, Sr., came from Huntington, Long Island, in the mid-forties, and has since owned the Fort Covington Pharmacy on Water Street. His wife, Annabelle, is a daughter of Almadus Smith, once one of the best-known residents of the Deer River section of this town. They have one son, Otto, Jr., who lives in a new house on South Water Street, and works in Massena; his wife is on the staff of the Salmon Central School. Mr. Kohout, Sr., is one of the most ardent Democrats in the town, and has served for several years as a Justice of the Peace.

James F. Mills and his wife, the former Mary Louise Vercesi, are both practicing lawyers, whose home and office are on West Chateaugay Street, in the spacious house formerly the residence of Alexander Stewart and later of Irvin Merrick. Mr. Mills is a graduate of the University of Alabama and of Brooklyn Law School. Mrs. Mills was graduated summa cum laude from New York University and Brooklyn Law School. Mr. Mills served two terms as Supervisor of this town, and has been for several years County Attorney of Franklin County. He has been Chairman of the Franklin County Republican Committee since 1960. Mrs. Mills was recently elected to the Salmon Central Board of Education. The couple have five children.

Joseph Lauzon came from St. Anicet about 1930, and bought the Henry McElwain farm. His sons, all living in this area, are Joseph, John, Rodrigue and Ulric; several daughters are married here. When Mrs. Lauzon died, in 1961, she was survived by ten children, 52 grandchildren and two great-grand children. The pallbearers on that occasion included Harold Brockway, Floyd Brockway, Alphonse LaTulippe, John Noreault, Fred Quenville and Levi Latreille — illustrating the large number of former Canadians now living in the town.

Albert Leger came from Canada in the mid-twenties to work as a meat cutter for Telesphore Monpetit, and soon thereafter bought the business, which he enlarged by the

addition of a grocery department. Mr. Leger was a village trustee and a member of the old Fort Covington High School board of trustees, both for considerable periods. He was a useful and popular citizen. His wife was Bertha, daughter of the late Fred Vincelette; there are three sons and one daughter.

Bert Fish owns and conducts a large grocery and general store, continuing the business established by his father, the late Bert Fish, Sr. The father had followed with zeal and success the trade of carpentry and cabinet-making until he was advised to give up that work, because of a heart ailment. Mr. Fish, Sr., served as a trustee on the village board for a long period, and his son maintains interest in civic duties. Bert, Jr., lives in a new house on Covington Street.

Dr. Raymond P. Foote is a native of Malone who now practices dentistry in Westville, and lives in the historic Man house. He is active in various civic organizations, such as the Westville Volunteer Fire Department and the Kiwanis Club, of which he is past president. He is married to the former Millie Mason, of Montreal, and has two children.

Francis J. Hoar lives on the former J. W. Keenan farm in Bombay. He is a native of Fall River, Mass. He is a graduate of Clarkson College, and is a licensed engineer. He is president of the G. D. Jenssen Co., Inc., and also conducts the F. J. Hoar Associates, with offices in Massena. He is active in industrial and residential development of this area, and belongs to many fraternal and professional groups.

Joseph H. Dingle is a native of Fulton, N. Y., who came into this neighborhood about 1929 from Syracuse. He married Mabel, daughter of Archibald McNair, the miller, and they make their home in Bombay. Mr. Dingle was associated with Francis J. Shields in the Slipper Corporation, and upon Mr. Shields' death, Mr. Dingle took the major interest in that company, which is Bombay's largest enterprise, employing hundreds of hands from all the surrounding towns. Mr. Dingle's son, Joseph G., a graduate of Hobart College, and a veteran of the U. S. Air Force, is associated with his father in the business. The senior Mr. Dingle's part in the long and difficult negotiations leading to the establishment

of the Salmon Central School, and his work in the presidency of the School Board at that time were undoubtedly outstanding contributions to the life of the Three Towns.

James R. Francey is a native of Bombay who has come prominently to the fore in recent years. He has been engaged in real estate, insurance and in the moccasin manufacturing industry. At various times, he has been Justice of the Peace, supervisor and temporarily, postmaster, pending federal examination, which he has taken. He resided for several years in Massena. He is married and has one daughter, Lola (Mrs. Lyle A. Wood).

Francis E. Donahue came from Watertown to manage a chain store of auto supplies in Massena. He makes his home, however, in Hogansburg, where he is married to a local girl, formerly Florence Bero. She is school nurse at the St. Regis Mohawk School. Mr. Donahue has long been a member of the Salmon Central Board of Education, and is at present its president.

C. Walter Smallman, now postmaster of Fort Covington, is a native of Malone, though related to the old Smallman family so long prominent here and in Dundee. Mr. Smallman was a captain in overseas service during World War II. At the close of his service, he came to Fort Covington to take up farming. He married Dorothy, daughter of Eugene and Sarah DeGowin. The couple have one daughter, Tamara. Their home is the former Streeter residence on Covington Street.

32 SOME WHO WENT AWAY

Sons and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters of the Three Towns are scattered over every state of the Union and every province of Canada, and in many foreign countries. Their material success and failure doubtless corresponds to that of their fellows from other areas. It would be impossible, moreover, to estimate the achievements of many of them. But, I hope it will not be considered invidious if I give condensed sketches of a few whose success in their chosen fields is a matter of record.

John Peter Brannen, who lived as a boy in Fort Covington and attended the old Academy, was born in Ottawa in 1874, the son of John Brady Brannen, a Canadian engineer of Irish descent, related to the McSweeney family, noted in Irish political history. Mr. Brannen, Sr., came to Fort Covington at the time he was connected with the railroad then being built from Valleyfield to Constable. The family lived in a house owned by Dennis Denneen, and the two families intermarried and were closely connected for years. John B. Brannen once owned the land in Canada, which is now the property of the Abitibi Lumber Company, the largest lumber mill in Canada; and the lake adjoining it is called Brannen Lake. "Jack" was a star athlete in his youth, playing center for three years on the Shamrock hockey team, which won the Stanley Cup, emblematic of the world championship, in 1898 and 1900.

Jack completed his medical studies at McGill University, Montreal, in 1900, and moved to Long Lake, N. Y., in 1905, through the persuasion of Father Dan Cahill. He practiced medicine there until 1915, when he left to join the Canadian Expeditionary Forces in World War I. He served in the medical corps throughout the war, then returned to practice in Montreal, where he was also superintendent of St. Mary's Civilian Hospital. He retired in 1945, when he came back to Long Lake, where he spends his closing years in a

beautiful home adorned with many trophies of a busy life.

Daniel Ross Cameron lived as a young man in Fort Covington, and was probably related to J. Y. Cameron, though not his brother, as has been said. J. Y.'s grandson, Harmon L. Remmel, states that the title "Uncle" which his mother and her sisters applied to Daniel was only a courtesy. Daniel went to Chicago, where he made a fortune in real estate. He was for some time president of the Board of Education of Chicago. In his later years, he lived in Pasadena, California, where his palatial home was pointed out to all visitors.

George S. Condon, born in Bombay, went to Detroit, Michigan, at the time of the First World War, in which he served in the 32nd — the "Red Arrow" — Division of Michigan troops. Returning to Detroit after the war, he was employed by the city of Detroit in its public works division for 30 years; he was also on the Detroit Board of Education. He now makes his home in Palo Alto, California, with his wife, two sons and a daughter.

William F. Creed was born in Fort Covington in 1847, and died there while on a visit, Nov. 9, 1903. He engaged in banking, and at times in politics, being a Democratic presidential elector in 1884. He was for a long time a deputy state superintendent of banks. He lived mostly in New York City, and was an active figure on Wall Street.

John Daly, born in Bombay, was the grandson of an Irish pioneer. He went to New York, joined the police force, and rose through all the grades to be chief inspector in 1918. In a time when police officers were often implicated in graft, "Honest John" Daly set a record for honesty that did great credit to his upbringing in Franklin County.

Darius Alton Davis was born on a wilderness farm in the town of Brandon, N. Y., in 1883, a son of Newton J. Davis and Hattie Bean. His father brought his family to Fort Covington in 1898, so that the children might obtain a better education. Alton graduated from the Academy in 1902, and attributes the start of his later success to the help received there from J. Leslie Cummings, then principal, and from Mrs. Alice Pike Spencer, who awakened in him his life-long

interest in botany, which has been his chief avocation. Alton entered Syracuse University and graduated in 1907. The university gave him the honorary degree of L. H. D. in 1923. While in college, he rowed on the crew. He married a classmate, Maud Merritt, and they make their home in Westwood, N. J., near their only daughter, who is a teacher.

Alton Davis' life work was that of Y.M.C.A. work, and much of it was spent in Europe. He was an executive secretary, first in Washington, later in Constantinople, where his daughter was born, and later in Geneva. During the first World War, Dr. Davis was responsible for opening up Y.M.C.A. services in thirteen European countries, and held important posts dealing with prisoners of war throughout Europe. In July, 1949, he was authorized to compile a pamphlet describing in detail the "Forty Years Emergency Service" of the "Y," during the many wars and disasters that have afflicted Europe in that time.

Francis Stanislaus Denneen was the youngest son of Dennis E. Denneen and Mary Creed. He was born in Fort Covington on June 17, 1879, and graduated from the Academy in the class of 1895. As a schoolboy, he was notable for his vivacity and his mechanical ingenuity. He and some of his chums delighted in stringing wires to connect homes by telephones, which were just beginning to be introduced. With such tastes, it was only natural that Francis should seek education in engineering. He went to Clarkson Tech, transferred to Purdue University, graduating in 1903, with the degree of B.S. in Electrical Engineering. He married Mary Nelson, daughter of A. J. Nelson, of Massena; they made their home in Cleveland, Ohio. There Francis had a long and notably successful career in business.

He worked successively for the Ohio Brass Co., the Chalmers Motor Co., and the Ohio Crankshaft Co., "Tocco." He organized his own company, the Denneen Motor Co., to manufacture trucks and trailers. This was later consolidated with General Motors, with whose president Kittering and three others, he served on a committee named by the government to devise the system later used to protect American patents. Perhaps his outstanding accomplishment was

his pioneering and promotion of high-frequency induction heating. For this he was repeatedly honored by the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. In 1953 he was to have received an honorary degree from his first Alma Mater, Clarkson Tech, but died suddenly May 10, 1953.

Herbert Darius Augustine Donovan was born on Dec. 21, 1880, on the farm southwest of Fort Covington Centre, long cultivated by his parents, Patrick Donovan and Mary Barry. He was the youngest of ten children. The family moved in 1888 to the village, where Herbert graduated from the Academy in 1895. Being too young to compete for the county's state scholarship, he stayed at home a year, then went to Franklin Academy in Malone, graduating there in 1897. He then began his teaching career by teaching the Wilson district — the first year of 44 years of teaching in public and private schools and colleges, in every grade from primary class through university graduate school.

He entered Cornell University in the fall of 1899, and graduated in 1903. His classbook notice commented on his "well-known argumentative tendencies," which made him prominent in debating and oratory. His taste inclined to history and politics, on which he has since written much.

His teaching career was spent in Syracuse; Winooski, Vermont; New Rochelle; and, finally, for 37 years in New York City, ending with his retirement in 1947. He was chairman of social studies in several Brooklyn high schools, and taught for about ten years in special classes in St. Francis College, Fordham University, and New York University. He earned the Ph.D. degree at N.Y.U. in 1917; his thesis on that occasion on the Barnburners, a New York political movement, was elaborated into a book, among the first to be published by the N.Y.U. Press.

Dr. Donovan has held numerous offices in educational, civic and religious organizations, and both he and his late wife were long affiliated with Red Cross and other charitable movements. Dr. Donovan was cited in 1951 by the Diocesan Union of his diocese for his study of the United Nations; and he was honored in 1960 by the Brooklyn Alumni Sodality for an historical study of its first 50 years.

Dr. Donovan was married in 1913 to Mary Margaret Moore, only daughter of Arthur Moore and Eliza McCafrey, of Ste. Agnes. Mrs. Donovan died on Aug. 21, 1962, at New Hyde Park, Long Island, where they had lived since 1948.

George Donovan, his wife Ann and daughter Georgianna, and James Donovan, his wife and sons Stephen, Michael, James and Arthur live in Brentwood, Long Island.

Anderson Carlyle Farlinger is the second son of Charles Farlinger and Jane Fraser, who lived in Fort Covington, having come there from Dundee, where the Farlingers (intermarried with Brodies) had been a leading family for many years, as clearly narrated in Robert Fraser's studious book. Anderson, born in 1887, graduated at Fort Covington High School, then at St. Lawrence University, and finally, in 1917, from the medical department of McGill University. On the outbreak of World War I, he joined the medical corps of the Canadian Army, where he gave three years service and attained the rank of captain. In 1920, he settled in New Liskeard, Ontario, which was at that time a pioneer community in which Dr. Farlinger met and conquered many of the same problems that Dr. Macartney has described in his book. New Liskeard has progressed much over the years, and its people give great credit to Dr. Farlinger for his life-long service, in which he is now joined by his son, Dr. Fraser A. Farlinger. Anderson's wife was the former Sarah Ann McCorquodale. They have two sons and two daughters. Dr. Farlinger was honored in 1960 by his Alma Mater, St. Lawrence, which cited him as an outstanding physician, surgeon and community leader.

Francis D. Flanders, 1810-1881, and his brother, Joseph R. (Flanders), 1814-1885), were brought to Fort Covington in 1825 from their birthplace, Salisbury, N. H. They lived in Fort Covington until 1847, when they moved to Malone, where they made thir home thereafter. They were editors, men of uncompromising convictions and clear outspoken expression, which commanded respect of their opponents and the fanatical approval of their followers, the "unterrified" Democrats of Franklin County.

Francis Flanders established the GAZETTE in 1837 in Fort Covington, and edited it there and later in Malone until his death. He and his brother composed its editorials, which commanded widespread attention in that day when small-town weeklies exerted great political influence. The brothers never flinched from opposing even the government, and suffered from government retaliation to the extent of serving terms in prison. The British government barred the GAZETTE from Canada mails during the Papineau Rebellion, which the paper vigorously supported; and during our Civil War, the U. S. Government not only barred the GAZETTE from our mails because Flanders upheld the right of state secession, but confined Francis himself in Fort Lafayette and Fort Warren for two months. Upon his release, Flanders demonstrated that imprisonment had not broken his spirit nor silenced his pen.

Both brothers held important offices at various times, including assemblyman, county clerk, postmaster and presidential elector for Francis, and assemblyman, delegate to the state constitutional convention and county judge for Joseph, who was a lawyer.

Charles A. Gardiner, 1854-1909, was a student in Fort Covington Academy, one of many Canadians who attended there in the early days. He later attended Hamilton College, was admitted to the bar, and had a distinguished legal career in New York City. He was at the head of the legal department of the city's elevated railways, and had many "big" clients, such as the Goulds. He was appointed to the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York. In his later years, he and his sisters used to make annual trips to the old home, and present residents who were children there then recall the excitement caused by their automobile.

Amos S. Kimball, brother of Fort Covington's well-known merchant, Timothy T. Kimball, enlisted in the U. S. Army in 1862, and was made quartermaster of the 98th — Franklin County — regiment. He stayed in government service after the war, and eventually became quartermaster-general of the entire army. He lived much of the time in New York City, but he died in Washington, D. C., in 1909.

William Charles Kinsella, the builder of the Brooklyn Bridge, was born just across the Canadian line from Fort Covington, and belonged to a pioneer family which lived in our town for several generations. His parents — James Kinsella and Anna McKeon — immigrated from Ireland about 1825, and reared their family of nine children in a log cabin. The older boys' baptisms appear in the parish records of the Catholic Church at St. Regis, but the younger ones were probably baptized at St. Mary's, Fort Covington, in which parish the Kinsella family lived. There is a stone there erected to the memory of James, Jr., who "died Feb. 12, 1852, in his 23rd year." It was about that time that William left to seek his fortune.

William Kinsella — the family name was always pronounced locally with the accent on the first syllable — was born July 31, 1833, and died in Brooklyn on Feb. 21, 1885. After teaching country schools briefly, to accumulate necessary funds, he took up his life work, the construction of large engineering projects. He formed a partnership with Col. Abner C. Keeney, and the firm became the largest contracting firm in New York City. They constructed large portions of the waterfront, all the original sewerage conduits, the walls around Central and Washington Parks, and finally the Hempstead Storage Reservoir, which was looked upon as a model. He then conceived the idea of bridging the East River, which was the first step toward the Greater New York of today. This brought him fame, as his previous work had brought him recognition and fortune. Mr. Kinsella persuaded John A. Roebling, America's foremost engineer of suspension bridges, to design the Bridge. After Roebling's untimely death, Kinsella continued his cooperation with Washington A. Roebling. The younger Roebling was an invalid, and the burden of translating the designs into actual construction fell entirely on Kinsella.

At the time of his death, William Kinsella was a director of many of Brooklyn's leading enterprises — newspapers, the telegraph company, the gas company and clubs. He was active in Democrat politics and was instrumental in securing the nomination of Grover Cleveland for President.

His funeral was one of the most imposing that the metropolis has ever seen. Henry Ward Beecher delivered the funeral address before an audience which included many dignitaries of the city, state and nation. Kinsella is buried in Greenwood Cemetery, under an imposing monument which bears the name "William C. Kingsley," a spelling which he had accepted in his early life, to avoid the burden which anti-Irish bigotry imposed on many immigrants' sons. He is not however, related to, or connected with the Yankee Kingsley families who lived in the Three Towns. Two of his brothers also assumed the name of Kingsley; but a third brother, John, retained the name Kinsella, as did all his fifteen children.

Mr. Kinsella used to visit his relatives in Fort Covington almost every year, and was most generous to them. His grandniece, the late Mrs. James Lahey, testified that his bigness of heart and geniality of manner, made one forget that he was one of the foremost Americans of his day.

Charles Philo Matthews was the son of Allen S. Matthews and Clara Clark. He was born in Fort Covington, Sept. 18, 1867. He attended St. Johnsbury Academy in Vermont. He then entered Cornell University, graduating in 1892 with the degree of Mechanical Engineer; in 1901 he received from his Alma Mater the degree of Ph.D. He became an instructor in physics and applied electricity at Cornell. After four years service there, he was called to Purdue University as associate professor of Electrical Engineering. He became the head of the School of Engineering in 1905. Under his guidance, that school became the largest in enrollment in the United States. He never married.

His researches in the field of photometry led to the establishment of photometric standards for arc lamps. Never robust, his intense application to his experiments and writing undermined his health, and he died Nov. 23, 1907 in Phoenix, Arizona, where he had gone for relief.

George McElwain was the only son of Samuel McElwain and Katherine Stafford, and was a half-brother of John McElwain. He was born about 1876, educated at Fort Covington Academy and at Rochester Business Institute. At the

time of the terrible fire in San Francisco in 1906, George went to the stricken city and arrived in time to "get in on the ground floor" in the rebuilding of the Golden Gate city. He became connected with the Southern Pacific Railway, and rose to the important position of general passenger agent. He made his home at Burlingame, a suburb of San Francisco, where he lived with his wife, an Illinois lady, and their son and daughter. George visited his native town several times, the last being in 1952, after the death of his sister Dorcas. George McElwain died on March 29, 1961.

James McMahon, 1831-1913, was a native of Fort Covington, who started his career in Rochester, N. Y., but later moved to New York City, and had a very successful business career there. He was connected for nearly 30 years with the Emigrant Industrial Savings Bank, at that time the largest savings bank in the world, and Mr. McMahon became its president. He was also a director of important trust companies and insurance companies, and was active in charitable and philanthropic institutions, and was a member of the Brooklyn Board of Education.

George Joseph Moore was the oldest son of Arthur Moore and Eliza McCaffrey, of Ste. Agnes. He was born May 10, 1879, and graduated from Fort Covington Academy in the class of 1898. He attended Potsdam Normal School for one year, taught school for two years, then entered Albany Law School, where he received his law degree. He entered the law office of Gordon Main in Malone, and thereafter practiced law in that town for 41 years, with various partners and for the last twelve years as head of the firm of Moore, Herron and Lawlor. While he was universally sought as attorney in will cases and the management of estates, he also distinguished himself in criminal trials, and participated with consistent success in nearly every first-rate trial conducted in Northern New York, notably the trial of "Dutch" Schultz. His courtroom presence, and his reputation of honesty and industry were great assets before a jury.

Keenly interested in government and politics, he avoided holding office, after having served four years as Member of Assembly in 1924-28. He was a delegate to the Constitu-

tional Convention of 1938, and was urged at that time to accept the Republican nomination for Congressman — a nomination equivalent to election, he declined.

At the time of his death, it was written of him that “from early manhood he was a leader in this community, and in the several organizations to which he gave the benefit of his active interest.” These included the Knights of Columbus, the Malone Lodge of Elks, the Rotary Club and the Grange. In 1938, Mr. Moore was created a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Sylvester by Pope Pius XI, and later devoted great effort to the campaign for the building of the new Catholic cathedral at Ogdensburg.

His wife was Theresa McNierney of Burke, who survives him, with four of their six children — two sons and two daughters. George Moore died on Oct. 15, 1949, and his funeral from St. Joseph’s Church gave striking evidence of his lifelong activity and enduring service.

Daniel B. Murphy was born in the Cold Spring neighborhood of Bombay in 1848, and attended school at Fort Covington Academy, and the Potsdam Norman School. After teaching for three years in St. Lawrence County, he became principal of the Brothers’ Academy. Rochester was his home during the rest of his life. His business was as a partner in the nationally-known department store of Burke, FitzSimmons and Hone. He was also associated with important business associations throughout the country. He was, for 19 years, on the board of managers of the Craig Colony for Epileptics, was a regular delegate to the Mohawk Peace Conference, and, in 1907, was president of the State Board of Charities and Corrections.

One of the most remarkable men ever to come out of the Three Towns was Cornelius Mahoney, a son of Donal O’Mahony — as that family’s name was written in southern Ireland, with the accent on the first syllable. Cornelius was born in the parish of Newtown, County Cork, on Jan. 6, 1818, a son of Donal O’Mahony and Mary Donovan, who immigrated to the United States in 1838, and lived in a little cabin on one of the most remote roads in Fort Covington, where the foundation of their little cabin may still

be seen. There the father died on Feb. 11, 1854.

Cornelius became totally blind at an early age, and his affliction caused him to concentrate on music, which was his natural talent. He took lessons from a teacher named Briggs in Fort Covington, and attracted the notice of Judge Joseph Flanders. Judge Flanders took him to New York City, and placed him in the Institution for the Blind on Ninth Avenue, where the young man completed his musical education. Graduating there, he remained there as a teacher for several years. Later, he taught singing in the public schools, was a church organist, and had many pupils in all parts of the city, which he travelled freely and without fear.

His claim to especial distinction, however, rests on the fact that he invented, published, and used a system of piano instruction for the blind. This system embodied a new plan of musical notation, and was presented very much as is the Braille system. This was followed by a book for those who could see. He obtained a patent for this system, showing that it was original. He travelled to Washington, unaccompanied, to secure this patent. These works brought their author high recognition and great praise. The American Institute conferred upon him a medal and diploma for his new system of musical notation. Queen Victoria sent Mr. Mahoney a personal letter — which I have seen — congratulating him upon his skill in putting to use embossed type for the writing of music. The French Academy also sent its congratulations for this extraordinary work.

Despite illness and injury, Mr. Mahoney pursued his profession until his death on Oct. 27, 1885. Was twice married to sighted wives, and had two sons and three daughters.

Henry A Paddock was born in Fort Covington on May 2, 1823, the son of Dr. Ora F. Paddock and Sarah Farnsworth, of Amherst, Mass. He was admitted to the bar in 1848, and was elected district attorney in 1853. In 1859, he was elected county judge, and held that office for nine years. He lived on Gove Street, in the west end of Fort Covington village, and married a daughter of George B. R. Gove. For reasons of legal convenience, he moved to Malone while he was judge, and spent the rest of his life there, dying

Jan. 4, 1884. Besides practicing law, he owned several mills, was an active real estate operator and a national bank examiner for four years. His son, Frederick, following him in the legal profession, was county judge for several terms.

William Purcell was born in Fort Covington on Aug. 15, 1830, but spent his adult life in Rochester, N. Y. He was in the newspaper profession, rising from a newsboy to editor of the Rochester UNION, which he founded in 1852, and built into the most powerful Democratic paper in western New York. He was for six years a member of the Democratic State Committee, and its chairman in 1879. He opposed the nomination of Grover Cleveland for the presidency, and voluntarily retired from his editorship during Cleveland's campaign. He then resumed his post, and continued to edit the UNION until his death in 1905.

Madison Chalmers Ransom — universally called Matt C. Ransom — started his legal career in Fort Covington in 1882, married there, and was a most dynamic figure in the town's life and politics for more than a dozen years thereafter. During that time, he established a successful law practice extending into many surrounding towns. Among important cases in which he figured were condemnation proceedings connected with the building of the Massena Springs and Fort Covington Railway involving large sums, and carried to the higher courts, who sustained him. He was also court-appointed defender in two first degree murder cases and saved both defendants from execution.

In 1896, when the Farmers National Bank of Malone was in difficulty, Mr. Ransom was offered the vice-presidency and the general management of that institution. He accepted, moved to Malone, and resided there thereafter. He performed an outstanding job for the bank, the effects of which were of permanent value to Malone and to the whole county. He was president of the bank from 1913 to 1924, and chairman of its board until 1944, besides holding many responsible positions in educational and eleemosynary agencies. He died Nov. 1, 1944 aged 89.

Mr. Ransom's wife was Henrietta Burch, daughter of N. H. Burch and Jane Grange, of early Fort Covington mer-

cantile families. They were members and staunch supporters of Fort Covington Presbyterian church, and always kept their membership in it, and their attachment to Fort Covington, contributing generously to the church's rebuilding.

John Martin Thomas was born in Fort Covington on Dec. 27, 1869. His father, Chandler Newell Thomas, was then pastor of the Presbyterian Church in the Fort, and remained there until 1882. The elder Thomas was an excellent musician and singer, active in the Northern New York Musical Association. John M. graduated from Middlebury College, Vermont, in 1890, and from Union Theological Seminary in 1893. He was pastor of the Arlington Avenue Presbyterian Church in East Orange, New Jersey, from 1893 to 1908, when he was named president of his Alma Mater, Middlebury College. In 1921, he became president of Pennsylvania State College; in 1925, of Rutgers University; and, in 1939, of Norwich University. He was also a vice president, for eight years of the National Life Insurance Society. He held positions also with religious, Masonic and educational organizations in Vermont and elsewhere, and was a chaplain with the armed forces.

Dr. Thomas was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and was granted honorary degrees from seven colleges. His books and magazine articles were on religious (Congregational) subjects. He was twice married, and had three sons and two daughters. He died on Feb. 26, 1952, at Rutland, Vermont.

Stanton R. Wilson graduated from Fort Covington High School in 1941 and from Princeton University. He entered the Presbyterian ministry, in which several other natives of our area — notably Rev. "Jack" Gardner, son of the former long-time pastor at Fort Covington, Rev. John Gardner — have rendered long service. In 1952 he went as a missionary to Korea, where he and his family are presently stationed at Andong. His station is, he says, the largest mission station in Korea, with liaison to 350 churches and preaching points, two Christian high schools of 1,000 students, a medical clinic, bible clubs, four orphanages and other religious and social facilities. Rev. Wilson is married and has two children.

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HISTORIC BUILDINGS

The Three Towns — especially Fort Covington — still contain many houses, churches and business buildings of great age and historical interest. These have survived to an extent that can hardly be surpassed anywhere for a similar area. This testifies to the sturdiness of their construction and the care that has been given them over the years. Most of them are still occupied, and their present owners sometimes discover evidences of their early history, which they are proud to relate.

The first houses built were, of course, log cabins, and very substantial houses they were, well adapted to withstand our severe winters. Few of the present or recent generations ever lived in a log cabin; but there was one near Fort Covington Centre that was occupied as late as 1960, when it was destroyed by fire. It stood on the Thomas O'Brien farm, and its last occupant was John Tassie, a carpenter. The outside looked just as it did a hundred years ago, and the interior was sealed, and very comfortable.

Possibly the oldest house in Fort Covington village is that now occupied by Mrs. Gladys McCaffrey, on the bank of the Salmon River at the south end of Water Street. This house was built by Dr. Buel Hitchcock before 1810, but stood at first further up the street, on the lot now occupied by Robert Regan's residence, which was built by James Macartney, who moved the original house to its present location. Dr. Hitchcock came here about 1802, when the Mans of Westville led a group of settlers from Vermont into the area. It was from this house that Thomas Fletcher stepped out, gun in hand, when the British troops entered Fort Covington in 1813; he was fired on, and, it is said, was mortally wounded; if so, he was the only casualty of that event.

Next door to Mrs. McCaffrey's house, but standing far back from the street, is a rambling old house that long was

the home of Allen Lincoln, Fort Covington's leading merchant in Civil War days. Mrs. Lincoln died at a great age, leaving most of her property to the former Ella Mulhall, who, as Mrs. George McQueen, had cared for her for years.

The period of greatest activity in house building was from 1820 to 1845, and the most active builder was Benjamin Raymond. Harland Horton, who has studied this phase of our history more seriously than anyone else, writes "I don't think there ever was a person . . . who left the imprint on Fort Covington and vicinity that he did, on account of the many fine buildings that he built. You can see his work, all the way from Westville to Brasher Iron Works. . . ."

The large houses opposite each other built by James Macartney and Philo A. Matthews are of much later erection. The former Matthews home is now the residence of Mrs. Elin Smith. Around the corner on Chateaugay Street and adjoining the Methodist Church, is the house probably built by George A. Cheney, although others attribute its building to Obadiah Holmes. The house is now occupied by Howard Lyons and his wife.

At the corner of Covington Street stands the former Paddock home, which has a long history of activity and a prominence in the town. Dr. Ora F. Paddock lived in it as early as 1821, and had his drugstore there. His son, George, spent his later years there, after moving from his farm. George's daughter, Miriam, who married William J. Donovan, was the last of the Paddock name to live in the village, and it was here that her mother, the former Ann Stiles, dispensed hospitality for many year. It is now owned by Robert Vincelette

Next to the Paddock house on Covington Street is the house lately acquired by James Dempsey, Jr., which also has an interesting history. Dr. Blackett and his wife — the former Mabel Cameron — lived here during their busy life in the village. Before them, the Misses Cameron and "T" Chisholm lived here. The house is believed to have been built by William Hogle for his son, who stayed here only a short time.

A little further on, we come to the "Wat" Parker house, a very old building; in fact, it is believed to have been built by William Hogan, who lived in Fort Covington while he was land agent to the Indians. It housed the first post office established here — in 1818. Walter S. Parker's grandfather and his father, J. B. Parker, also a "druggist," lived here for many years. It is now occupied by Lucien Latulippe.

Across Covington Lane is the house and extensive grounds of the Streeter family, the last of whom — Emma Streeter — died in 1948. The Streeter brothers became wealthy in Chicago, but always kept their home in the Fort and usually spent their summers in the fine old house. After Emma Streeter's death and the dispersal of the many antiques and foreign curios her brothers had collected, the house was bought by Ed Miller, with the intention of making it his home; he installed a new fireplace; but his wife preferred to remain in their former home, so the property was rented to Fred Vernon. The property now belongs to C. Walter Smallman.

Directly across Covington Street is the well-known house of Mrs. Ralph Hayes, the last local representative of the Dennis Denneen family. This imposing stone house was built by Jabez Parkhurst in 1837. It is believed to have been used in pre-Civil War days as a station on the "underground railway," which enabled Negro slaves to escape into Canada. It was acquired by Dennis Denneen before 1876, and still contains many of the elegant furnishings that were fashionable at the turn of the century, but is also equipped with today's comfort, and here Mrs. Hayes practices to the last the fine hospitality that always characterized her family; few visitors to Fort Covington fail to visit this house.

Diagonally across Center Street is the home of Elton Cappiello, which was long prominent when it was the home of James Y. Cameron and his family. This house was built by Willard Parker, who went to California in the Gold Rush days, and never returned. On leaving, he deeded the home to his wife's grandfather Allen Lincoln, with the understanding that, should he not return, Mr. Lincoln would care

for Mrs. Parker — a trust that was nobly fulfilled; in fact, Mr. Lincoln later deeded the property back to Mrs. Parker.

At the east end of Center Street, on a rise in ground, which affords a wide view of the Dundee area, is the brick house built by Edward Richardson, one of the group of men brought here by the building of the railroad. It is said that this house was the first here to utilize furnace heating. The house later was occupied by the King family, then by James Farlinger and is at present occupied by Harriet Dupree, who also is the last of her family. Jim Hall and family lived in the corner house, and other railroad families included Gaudions, Atchisons and Millers.

At the junction of High Street and Chateaugay Street stands the handsome brick building now utilized as a school and residence by the Sisters of St. Joseph who conduct St. Mary's parochial school. The building was erected by Thomas F. Creed, then one of the town's leading merchants. Upon his removal to Malone after business reverses, the property was occupied for years by Mrs. Kate McElwain and her daughter, Dorcas (Dottie).

Practically every building on Water Street and the majority of those on Chateaugay Street is at least 100 years old. Mr. Harland Horton has, with unflagging zeal, traced the successive ownership of most of them through the generations since. It is to his patient research that I am indebted for most of the data which follow.

At the northwest corner of Water and Chateaugay Streets there stood formerly a frame building which probably witnessed more local history than any other single building. This was known in modern times as the popular hardware store, conducted by the Matthews family, and later for a time by Albert Armstrong. The historic old building was demolished in 1960 to make way for the new building which houses the branch bank of the Farmers National Bank of Malone. The old building was built at least as early as 1810. It was of timber construction, 28 feet by 40 feet on the ground. The posts in front were hand hewn of pine, eight by twelve inches, and put together with oak pins. The ridgepole was one piece of timber. The board-

ing was half inch lining boards, covered with inch boards. The spikes and nails were hand made, probably in Jesse Woodbury's triphammer works.

The first known occupant was one Stutson, who kept a hotel there in 1813. It remained a hotel for about 25 years; then Philo Matthews took it over. The building bore historical markers placed on it by the government; one of them reads: "This building was headquarters of Gen. Jacob Brown, American army officer, during the winter of 1813-14, in War of 1812."

On the opposite side of Covington Lane, the Vercesi family lived in a house once occupied by Timothy Kimball, the merchant. It stands on the site of the ill-fated blockhouse of the War of 1812, and in its vicinity wooden pipes that evidently brought water to the blockhouse have been dug up. Mr. Kimball may have rebuilt an older house in which John McCrea was living in 1858.

The American Legion hall and the adjoining Castagnier house were built by Allen McHutcheon about 1825. George B. R. Gove once kept store here. The Kohout drugstore building dates from the same period, as does Mr. Kohout's home, which was built by Job Congdon.

Frank Holden's house near the river was originally the home of C. B. Herriman, when it stood where Mrs. Elin Smith lives.

Daniel Noble built several houses around the Water-Chateaugay Corner, including the Leger block — long the Congdon drugstore — and John Derouchie's house, in which James W. Kimball was living in 1858.

Noble also built the Fullum house and the Frances Cushman block. He sold the latter in 1861 to Dr. William Gillis, who installed his drugstore there.

William Hogle, whose pre-eminence among the merchants of the town was soon to decline, built in 1866 the finest house in the village — the imposing brick mansion on the hill on the east side of Water St., which has been occupied in recent years by Bennie Derouchie and his wife. With its high-ceilinged rooms, great hall looking out over the beautiful lawn, and spacious coach house at the rear, it was a

notable addition to the village. A. M. Lincoln and his son-in-law, Abram S. Creighton, lived there, later, and made substantial changes, not in concordance with the original design.

The corner block, in which Levine's store is now the only business, played a big role in the Fort in early days. John Quaw was doing business there in 1858. It housed the Eagle Hall, in which many school and social functions used to be held.

Job Congdon built the Albert Leger store in 1836 on a lot that had been bought in 1823 by Rev. Hiram Safford as a site for a proposed Baptist church. Congdon also built the little adjoining building, where John Hatton had his jewelry store for so many years.

Just west of the Gillis drugstore stood a building built by Noble before 1838, and probably used as his office. His son-in-law, Dr. William A. Peck, a dentist, had his office here. Later, it was the Paddock meat market, the millinery store of Henrietta Johnson, and finally the printing establishment where Frank Bucklin published the ADVERTISER from 1910 to 1917. The building was moved to the Woolen Mill road, and is now a garage.

The present Peets Tavern was at first Noble's leather goods shop; his tannery was back of this building.

The house now occupied by Cameron Farquhar's family and by his mother was built about 1825 by Benjamin Sanborn, the miller. It was later occupied for many years by Richard Grange, who had a hardware store on Water Street, about where the Philipps funeral parlor is now located. Later occupants of the house included John W. McElwain and Dr. Ronan.

Practically all the buildings on Water Street date back to the 19th century, and many of them to the pioneers.

The Wayne McElwain paint store occupies the building erected by Allen McHutcheon in the 1820s, and occupied and improved by Thomas Creed when he was one of the Fort's leading merchants in the 1870s. It was later the home and business place of the Dempsey family. Tuthill and Manning operated here in 1858.

The Fort Covington Hotel just beyond the corner of Water and Mill Streets has not been busy for some years, but in its prime, as the Northern Hotel, it was the scene of much of the public life of the town, and its Stafford's Hall witnessed many important functions.

The SUN office of today is a building which stands on the tannery lot of William Herrick.

At the northwest corner of Water and Center Streets was the widely-known C. B. Minkler bakery. Opposite is Leo Derouchie's house, built by Captain James B. Spencer in about 1825.

Across the river, on the north side of Center Street, is one of our landmarks, the rambling old house which was the residence of Frank Bucklin, and later passed into the possession of Ezra Dupree. It was originally used as a hotel, and at the time of the War of 1812, was being run by Alexander Campbell. It was to this house that the mortally-wounded General Covington was brought to die. It is believed that the Collette house, on the corner, was once part of this building.

Across the road is the large white house bought by John McQueen when he left the farm. It was occupied by Tilness Briggs in 1858. The house on Drum Street, in which Frank Chatland now lives, was built before 1818 by Jesse Woodbury, who ran the triphammer work on Mill Street, where nails, scythes, hinges, etc., were made.

The Chisholm house on Salmon Street, now owned by Ann Chisholm and her husband, Kenneth Grant, was probably built by Daniel Noble about 1835-40, and has been in the Chisholm family since 1864, when Donald Chisholm bought it from Matthew Fleming for \$1,100; Charles Adams paid \$250 for the lot in 1840.

At the north end of Salmon Street, the road passes west of the stately old riverside home built by S. E. Blood, soon after the Civil War. Here, his daughter Minnie entertained lavishly in the 1890s; later its halls saw many happy parties, when owned by Charles Burch.

A little further down the river and also on the west bank, are the remains of a house which was once the home

of Earl Scriptor, who came to the Fort to practice law, married Mary Barlow, a teacher, and lived a useful and happy life here for about 20 years, putting service to his friends and the community ahead of his modest legal practice on which he was not dependent.

The brick house on Gove Street was built by George B. R. Gove in the 1830s, after he had become, as we have already told, Fort Covington's busiest and most enterprising citizen. He furnished his own material, both brick and lumber. When the Paddocks moved to Malone, Mr. Gove went with them, and died there, but he was brought back to the Fort for burial. The brick house was later the home of the McNair family, and is now occupied by Theodore LaBrake.

The neighboring house, now occupied by the Cappiello and MacKenzie Funeral home, was built and used by Raymond as his own home, and when he moved to Malone, it became the home of Deacon Joel Lyman.

At the other end of the village, the Woolen Mill road, called Briggs Street at one time, contains several interesting houses. These houses were occupied by the Davison and Shannon families.

There are numerous other buildings in the Fort which have had long and honorable histories, which I hope will be preserved before they have to be demolished. The restoration projects conducted in recent years at such centers as Williamsburg, Virginia, and Stony Brook, Long Island, have elicited great public interest and have drawn many visitors. There are few localities more available for restoration than is Fort Covington.

Many of the early houses were of brick, which was easy to obtain; but frequently, their brick was removed or surfaced over. The ornamentation often indicates the builder. Thus, Raymond built Gothic style houses, of which there are about a dozen — the only ones of that type, in this area. Merrick & Wilson — Irvin A. and Seth W. B.— built houses of both stone and wood, in the Georgian style; they also built the Methodist Church, in 1838. There is also a smaller type of house, only 1½ stories high, all of wood, with a

paneled doorway in the center. These are found mostly in Westville.

On the Malone road, two miles from Fort Covington village, stands the Creighton house, erected by William Creighton in the 1860s, and in the family ownership ever since. It is in excellent condition. Creighton could see from his window the smoke of five farmhouses occupied by his sons. The William Creighton house originally showed a "gingerbread" scroll which was carved by hand by Mr. Creighton and Hugh McKinnon, who sat up all night to finish it. It was in the design of a Scotch thistle. It was attached by hand-forged bolts, but these, as well as the scroll, had to be scrapped because of their deterioration, when the old house was recently renovated.

At Westville Corners is the store so long occupied by Walter Ordway, a center of the business and social life of the town. It is still a store, operated by Milton Langlois.

A very old historic house is the Man house. The house, or two adjoining houses, remained in Man's possession until well into the present century, and is in good condition.

Other old homes in Westville include the James Overfield, Amos Cushman, and Harrison Freeman houses — the last-named now occupied by Bentley Dustin.

At Fort Covington Centre is a sturdy stone house of a type not common here. This was the old home of James Blood, who with others of his family, is buried in a little private cemetery, south of the road. His wife was a lifelong invalid, but their only child — a daughter, Wealtha, a woman of outspoken opinions and a caustic tongue — died only a few years ago at a very advanced age; the family then became extinct.

A short distance to the north is the historic home of Seth W. B. Wilson, who was for so long the head of the numerous Wilson family, described elsewhere.

On the outskirts of Fort Covington village is the former Mears home, now occupied by Andrew Cappiello. The house was built in the 1830s by Thomas Mears. Much of the original building remains, and the property has recently

been renovated by its present owners. Some of the original pine trees are still standing, survivals of the famous old Mears grove, which was the traditional picnic site during the 19th century.

The store at Fort Covington Centre, recently acquired by Henry Travers, has a long history dating back to the early days when Deer River Corners was the trading center for the southern part of the town. Among those who have conducted a store here were Clinton Ordway, Romelius Ordway, John Kingston, and, more recently, Mrs. Ola Baxter, who died in 1962.

Across the road from this store is the home built and long occupied by Ralph Henry and still owned by his daughters, Marguerite (Keats) and Gladys, who live in a neat modern home a little to the west.

In Briggs Street and Little Briggs Street were numerous houses occupied by members of the Briggs, Stark, Learmount and other pioneer families, of whom only a few Starks remain. John Fallon built a house on the old Shane farm.

At Cook's Corners stands the Wesleyan Methodist Church, built in the 1880s, and long a center of community activity.

At South Bombay is the house of "James Moore, sawyer" and an old historic house of the Berry family. There also was the sawmill operated by George Russell. The Russell gristmill is still standing; it was built by Benjamin Raymond. Unfortunately, the covered bridge over the Little Salmon, which served several generations, was removed in 1946. And the equally old covered bridge at Hogansburg is also gone, since the 1930s.

On the Fort Covington-Bombay road is a handsome four-story frame house, with a square cupola, conspicuous on its roof. This house was built by Franklin V. B. Rolfe about 1890, and was long occupied by the Rolfe family, one of whose daughters married a publisher, of Burlington, Vermont.

In Bombay Corners, outstanding old houses are the Will Shields house — now a restaurant, the Country Manor —;

the Ernest Foy and Mortimer Russell houses, each over 100 years old, and the Rolfe house, just outside the village on the Fort Covington road; the house described above. It is said to have been planned by the builder so that he could easily see the trains coming into Bombay. The former home of Ernest G. Reynolds is still in the Reynolds family, and the Rockwood family still owns the house which Dr. Rockwood built in the 1880s, but many of the older buildings in Bombay village were destroyed in the fire of 1921.

The Town Hall is perhaps 80 years old, and was used as a school while the high school, which stood in the next lot, was being erected. H. K. Cross lived on one side, and George W. Davis on the other. Mr. Davis' son-in-law, Dr. Herman S. Rockwood, also occupied this house for about ten years, until he built his own house on the Moira road. Mrs. Bertha Cavanaugh now lives where Mr. Davis did. The home of James Thurgood is also a house of long standing. The old Donaldson homestead, sometimes called the Riverside Farm, is on the south side of this street.

The Cross residence on Church Street is one of the oldest houses in town; in early days, it belonged to Ansell Willey. It was purchased from E. G. Reynolds by D. N. Cross. The tax assessed on it then was \$3; it is now over \$200! On farms outside the village, to the east, lived Seymour Elliott, Condons, Bidgoods, Patrick McDonald, Caseys; and the large farm where Jesse Croke now lives was owned for years by Dr. Charles McConnell. On Merchant Street, V. Barlow lived in 1876, and his blacksmith shop was across the road from his house.

Hogansburg contains several historic houses, the most publicized being the very steep-roofed house in which Eleazar Williams lived for several years in the 1850s, while he was acting as rector of the adjoining Episcopal Church, which has since disappeared. The merits of Williams' claim to be Louis XVII of the House of Bourbon will never be conclusively determined; but after reading the evidence pro and con, as detailed in Seaver's History — which those interested should consult, if possible — I can not take Williams' assertion seriously; and, in view of his personal instability

and the failure of his mission here, I do not attach as much significance to the house as do many residents and some writers.

Nearby is the house built by William Hogan, when he was land agent, and in which he lived for a while before he went to Fort Covington. It contains no unusual features, but its present owner exhibits a framed picture, which is said to have been identified, upon its restoration, as an old painting of General Gaines of the War of 1812. He presumably gave it to Hogan. The brick house long occupied by Alex A. Bero is across the street.

On the corner of Main Street and St. Regis Road there stood until the summer of 1962 a fine looking frame house that was built and occupied for years by Henry Bowker, Sr., one of Hogansburg's leading business men. It has recently become the property of the Catholic diocese of Ogdensburg, and it is said that the site may be utilized for the erection of another chapel for the Indians.

Opposite St. Patrick's church is the former home of Thomas Lantry, now occupied by his two surviving daughters. Thomas' son Michael is a storekeeper, as are his cousins Charles and Hubert, sons of John, whose former home is on the same road. The Daly family, whose homes were near Bombay Corners, are no longer represented in the town; nor, with the exception of Mrs. Yops, are the Kernans, who came from St. Lawrence County and who were distantly related to Francis Kernan of Utica, once United States Senator.

Patrick Kavanaugh had a large farm at the locality now commonly called Potter's Corners, where Mabel Croke, is now living.

Bradley's Corners was long the home of Abraham Bradley, but the family is no longer represented in Bombay.

This concludes the main points that I have accumulated. I am sure that I have omitted some that are worthy of attention, and I hope to receive fuller information which my readers may supply.

34 AFTER TWO HUNDRED YEARS

We are reaching the end of our story. Just 200 years have elapsed since the French Jesuit mission at St. Regis started the permanent settlement of our Three Towns. We have traced their development from that day to this — the coming of the settlers from New England, from overseas and from Canada; their conquest of the wilderness, their establishment of modest homes and self-supporting industries; their social, religious and educational activities; their dispersal to distant places; and the coming of others to replace them. Let us now survey the situation here as we find it today, when it appears that the coming of the Nuclear Age is likely to terminate many of the conditions that are now passing into history.

The Three Towns are not quite a typical American community. Their population is not increasing, as most areas are; nor is it the highest that it has ever been. The area is not as lively and busy as it was at the time of the Civil War, 100 years ago.

The Census of 1960 reports the population to be: Bombay town, 1,103; Fort Covington town, 1,905; (including Fort Covington village, 975); Westville town, 1,287; St. Regis Reservation (portion in the U. S.), 1,774; or a total of 6,069 people in the Three Towns. If objection is made that these figures do not agree with figures given in Chapter 14, above, I may say that both sets of figures are official. The number of households was listed as Bombay, 287; Fort Covington, 503; Westville, 300; St. Regis, 426. The age distribution is interesting. The number of children (less than 14 years old) was: in Bombay, 387; in Fort Covington, 664; in Westville, 487; in St. Regis Reservation (portion in the U. S.), 681, a total of 2,219, which is nearly 39% of the entire population. This would indicate that the schools must continue to be a factor of prime concern to the residents. The proportion of children is much higher among the

Indians than among the whites, and the "median age" is given as 22 years, for them, as compared with 29½ years for the whites. At the other end of the scale, only about nine percent of the Indians are reported as being over 65 years, as contrasted with eleven percent among the whites.

The predominant racial stock is French; i.e., French Canadian. Many French have moved across the Line in recent years, and have bought up farms from former owners. Many of these have large families, and this reduces their expenditure for labor. In community news, their names are increasingly prominent; and in politics, they are making themselves felt.

As might be expected in view of the figures of population which I have cited, there is no congestion in the Three Towns. A good many of the older houses and former business blocks are closed, some of them falling into disrepair. On the main street of Fort Covington village, several stores which formerly supported families have been closed for a long time. Recent issues of the SUN have carried advertisements of both houses and apartments in both Fort Covington and Bombay, as well as of a store in Hogansburg. Some of these ads, however, appeared in only a single issue, indicating, probably, that the property was promptly taken. The chief demand, in recent years, has come from new employees of the large establishments in Massena, and from down-state teachers employed in the Salmon Central School.

One area which has shown a marked gain in population is the southern part of the town of Westville, near the old McGrath schoolhouse. A considerable number of new houses of inexpensive types have been put there in recent years, as well as several trailers; this has notably relieved the isolation of the former long stretches of unoccupied land along the Malone road, better known now as Route 37.

A noticeable feature of rural conditions in these days is the accumulation of automobiles at junction points along the main highways, where branch roads meet the main bus line. These are the cars of local men employed at the Massena plants, who leave them during the day and travel

by bus to their work, picking up their own cars to return to their homes at night.

It is superfluous to comment on the ubiquity of the automobile here, as everywhere else in 1962. Very few are the families that do not drive cars. The horse as a means of transportation has practically vanished. There is a tremendous overturn in the use of cars, and "used car lots" are numerous. Two of the largest and most unsightly are situated on the main highway that passes the beautiful new Salmon Central School; and it is to be hoped that a way will be found and enforced to either remove them or conceal them from traveler's sight.

Religious and charitable activities are still prominent in the Three Towns, although, as in other places, the Sabbath observance is by no means as strict as it once was. The largest proportion of church-goers are Roman Catholics. One new Catholic church has been opened recently — Our Lady of Fatima, Westville, on Route 37. The establishment and growth of Catholic schools, necessitated by the church's insistence on religious instruction in school, which is not allowed in public schools, will probably pose an increasing problem for schools here, as elsewhere; but, at the time of this writing, no evidence of religious friction is noticeable. Neither is there any condition of racial conflict. Integration is complete. The only significant group of non-white origin — the St. Regis Indians, who, nowadays, are largely intermarried with French — are freely admitted to all public schools, and many make creditable records.

The predominant occupation is farming, as it always has been, since the ancient forest was removed. The average size of a farm in Franklin County is reported as 188.8 acres with a total investment of \$17,149. According to Dr. Cunningham of Cornell University, the average value of land and buildings is \$50 per acre. Between 1954 and 1959, the number of farms in the whole county declined from 1,771 to 1,293. The Three Towns decline is not shown, but doubtless agrees with that of the county. Of these, 1,082 are operated by full owners — 442 less than in 1954; 183 by part-time operators; three by managers; and 25 by tenants

— only half as many as five years before. The average age of all farm operators was 51 years, and more than one-fifth were over 65 years of age. The average labor income on farms is about \$891. "One farmer in three has little income left to pay for his own work after meeting expenses and interest on investments." The 1958 State Commerce Review reported that the per capita income in northern New York is still the lowest in the state; "income from farming declined, but not as drastically as in most areas." The size of the average farm is increasing, and its inhabitants have more labor-saving equipment than formerly, and more amenities, such as telephones and TV sets.

The old-time trades — shoe-makers, harness-makers, blacksmiths and such — have disappeared. Most of the small shoppes and stores are moribund, though here and there an enterprising proprietor, such as Cameron Farquhar, has adapted the business to the changing demand of the times, and has succeeded in withstanding the pressure toward consolidation, and in keeping, and even expanding, a long-continued business. Automobile service stations and laundromats are quite common, and bus transportation supplements to quite an extent the service of private cars. The chief opportunities for earning ready money come now from employment in the large establishments in Massena or in the Slipper Corporation at Bombay.

Hay is the major farm crop in our area. The average yield is about 1.5 tons per acre, compared to the state yield of 1.7 tons. About 4% of the hay acreage is harvested as grass silage. Corn silos, which made a prominent feature of our landscape, forty years ago, are not so prominent, now. The tonnage of grass silage has declined markedly in recent years, due in part to high investment required, and in part to the homemakers' dislike of objectionable odors.

The production of potatoes, once a prime industry in the Three Towns, has declined much in importance. Of the 25 commercial growers owning large potato farms — nearly 50 acres each — in Franklin County, none is in the Three Towns.

Forestry products — including Christmas trees and

maple syrup — are increasing in importance, and seem to offer a promising prospect for increasing the income of our people; but as yet, outside of a few plantations of Scotch pine, not much has been done here.

As to poultry, a traditional by-product of Franklin County farms, the report of the agricultural extension agent, who devotes over three pages to the subject, is not reassuring. The report indicates that production of both eggs and meat is declining, and analyzes the reasons why. It sums these up as "small size units, lack of mechanization, and low efficiency." It stresses, too, the pressure of competition from three large supermarkets as a difficult force to be overcome. Eggs are reported worth 35 cents per dozen at the farm.

The raising of strawberries and raspberries, for which the climate and environment are well adapted, has declined noticeably in recent years, which is unfortunate, as the Extension Service points out. Those products are not as important in the output of the Three Towns as they well might be.

The chief "money crop" is milk and its allied dairy products. This has been true for at least 75 years, or since the elimination of the forests which once covered this area. It is still true, as the Extension Service Association of the Agricultural Department points out in its current (1961-62) Report. It estimates that "dairy farming . . . accounts for approximately 90% of the total income in the county."

The Report lists 22 dairy farms as examples of outstanding dairy farm operators. Among these, 5 are in the Three Towns, Errol McElwain in Bombay; John Ellsworth and Warren Mount in Fort Covington; and Allen Heagle and Carl Stark in Westville.

The County Agricultural Agent predicts that the tendency to larger farms will continue, and that "we will have closer to 500 commercial dairy farms in 1967-70 instead of the 812 that are delivering to milk plants, today. . . . In many cases, the ones going out of business will be purchased by the ones staying in."

It points out further that dairy farm costs continue to

rise, while the current milk price has dropped . . . "This has caused many farmers to go out of business . . . the challenge to dairymen is great to build businesses capable of meeting the tests." Of the 1,293 farms in the County, 321 were in the Three Towns; of the 1,293, 810 were dairy farms. The number of cows milking decreased about one-fifth, but the receipts from dairy and dairy products declined only a little. At present, milk is mostly collected by trucks, which take it to a pasteurizing station, the largest of which is at Bombay Corners. From the stations, it is transported by truck to New York City, which paid Franklin County farmers \$6,218,000 during 1959. A proportionate share of this came to the Three Towns. There is also a considerable amount of milk taken to a cooperative factory in Chateaugay.

The County Extension Service of the State Agricultural Department is located in Malone, and the Agent currently in charge is William B. Andrews. George Brown is Farm Planner for the Soil Conservation Service, and travels assiduously about the county, advising farmers on their problems. The Extension Service includes the Agricultural Department, the Home Demonstration Department and the Four H Clubs Department. An Extension Service Association has been organized, and its members pay dues of \$3 per year each. This pays 11.8% of the Department's upkeep; the balance comes from federal funds, 9.2%; state funds, 20.5%; county funds, 58.5%. For his \$3 dues, each member receives "The Franklin County Agricultural News," a barn sign and a place on the mailing list. At the present time, there are about 50 members in Bombay, 65 in Fort Covington, and 60 in Constable (including Westville). The Home Demonstration Department — women members — is especially active, and has two local units — Covingbay, for Fort Covington and Bombay; and Westville; Mrs. Monta Rasmussen is county agent. For 1962-63, Miss Blanche McElwain is chairman of the Covingbay unit, Mrs. Ulric Lauzon of the Westville unit. Regular meetings are held twice a month, except during winter months. Printed leaflets announce the programs in advance, which include demonstrations, lectures and social gatherings. Among

typical subjects discussed are: Twentieth Century Food Development; Easy to Make Dress; Why Taxes?; Flower Arrangement; Spot and Stain Removal (an agent-taught lesson). The meetings are conducted by project leaders listed as: in Covingbay, Mrs. Lloyd McGibbon, Mrs. Margaret White, Mrs. Errol McElwain, Sr., Mrs. Donald Powers, Mrs. Cameron Farquhar, Mrs. Ethel Hodder; in Westville, Mrs. Earl Rowley, Mrs. Bernard Fleury, Mrs. Allen Heagle, Mrs. Ernest Premo, Mrs. John Cappiello, Mrs. Louis Riendeau and Mrs. Watson Fleury. Copious press accounts in the SUN testify that these meetings and programs are very worth-while, and are highlights of the community.

Many of the men farmers are organized into the County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee, whose duty is formally stated to be: "to administer faithfully the federal programs assigned to us . . . and thus do our part in performing the essential services of the government, in conserving our natural resources, and in furthering the free and democratic institutions of our country."

Floyd McCabe of Fort Covington is chairman of the County Committee at the present time, and there are eight local committees of three men each. The committee for Bombay and Fort Covington is Warren Mount, Donald Durant and John Ellsworth; for Constable and Westville is Wellington Rockhill, Walter Dinneen and Kenneth Stark.

All members are supplied with a handbook entitled "Franklin County ACP Practices," which, for 1962, lists fifteen practices, each of which is clearly described, and for which the government will pay a share of the cost at a rate stated in the handbook; an example is "Renovating Permanent Pasture — Fifty per cent of the cost not to exceed \$30 per acre." The County Committee must approve each job, and certify to each bill.

The State College of Agriculture at Cornell University supplies many handbooks which, as well as the Federal Department of Agriculture leaflets, go to all members of the Extension Service. Specialists from the State College frequently come to give lectures and demonstrations.

It is evident, therefore, that the farmers of the Three Towns and their wives are being encouraged and helped to maintain their homes, and to improve them economically and socially; and that an increasing number are taking advantage of their opportunities.

However, Mr. Andrews points out that many farmers — particularly those who do not belong to the Conservation Committee — are not fully aware of the advantages to be derived from government help which they might obtain, and neglect to try practices that may differ from traditional ones. He cites as examples that the soil of Ft. Covington and Bombay is exceptionally rich in phosphorus and potassium, which is good for the production of legumes such as alfalfa for dairy purposes; and he calls attention to Dr. Cunningham's survey of 1955-56, which said that more money can be made from heavy clay soil, such as the Three Towns have, than from light sandy soil, so common in New York State.

Industrially, there is uncertainty and some anxiety felt here as to the prospects for employment in the future. With all the loyalty that our people feel toward their native area — a loyalty that is evident over many years in the repeated visits they make to their old home and in the national circulation which the SUN enjoys — it is a matter of concern to them that the exodus of residents still continues.

Conferences are held from time to time to discuss ways of bringing industries that might employ young people finishing school — who, as we have seen, are a large number. Congressman Kilburn and other officials have shown a sympathetic interest; but, up to the time of this writing, nothing tangible has developed. Of the future, we know nothing; but the past is secure.

After two hundred years, Fort Covington, Bombay and Westville, in Franklin County, New York, and the St. Regis Reservation, look back to a worthy history, not often exciting, but on the whole a replica of the rural United States. I trust that a perusal of the foregoing pages has left the reader with the feeling that he or she has watched the happy development of a country neighborhood — its settlement, its

people, its sorrows and its joys; and they can judge from that some of the main clues to the America that we have, today.

With this thought, we leave the Three Towns on the threshold of the Nuclear Age. May their future be as happy as their past has been! And may the details of that past, as I have presented them, be a fond recollection in an equally happy future!



The Rolfe House, Bombay

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Fort Covington. A Skyview by Dwight Church



St. Regis Village



Bombay Village, the Cemetery in the Foreground



The Eleazar Williams House, Hogansburg. Architecturally interesting for its steep pitched roof. No longer standing



The Northern Hotel, Fort Covington. Built about 1850



Mrs. Lodama Hitchcock, (1766-1851). The Wife of Dr. Buel Hitchcock. A Typical Pioneer Woman, in Dress Attire Typical of the Time



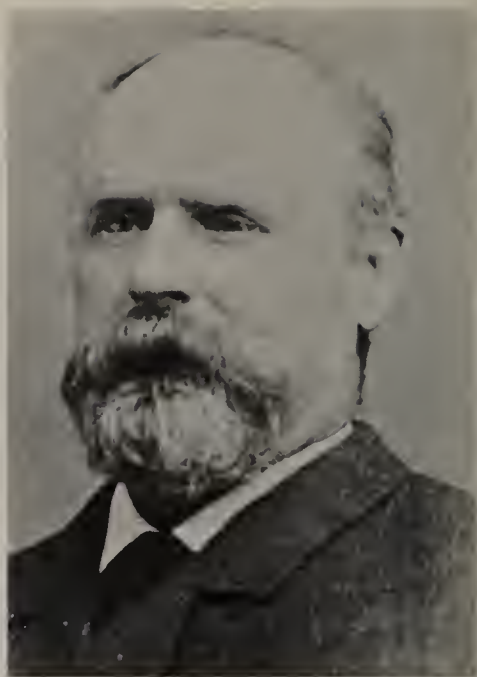
Dr. Ora F. Paddock



Allen Monroe Lincoln the First. (1787-1869)



James Yeo Cameron (1837-1910)



Dennis E. Denneen



William J. Donovan (1860-1910)



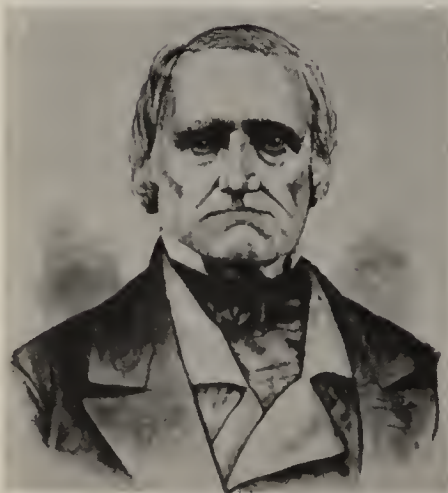
A Tintype Photograph of Levi Briggs



Brigadier General
Leonard Covington



William Gillis



George B. R. Gove



Chandler Ellsworth



The Dr. L. H. Berry House, Westville



The Gladys McCaffrey House.
Possibly Fort Covington's Oldest House



St. Mary's Catholic Church, Fort Covington.
Built in 1827-38, The Tower Added Later

Fort Covington Methodist Church



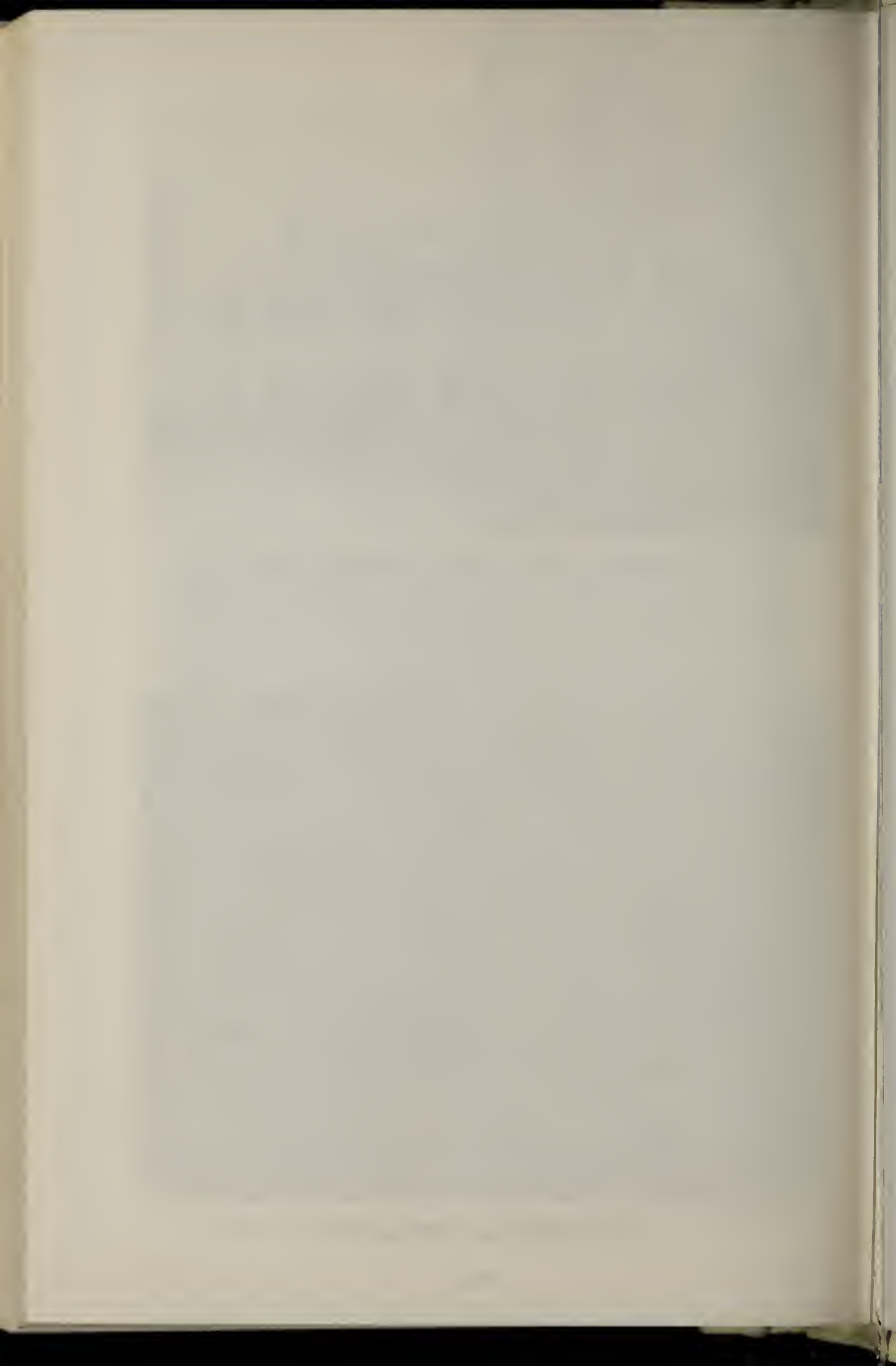
Former Presbyterian Church, Fort Covington. Burned in 1923

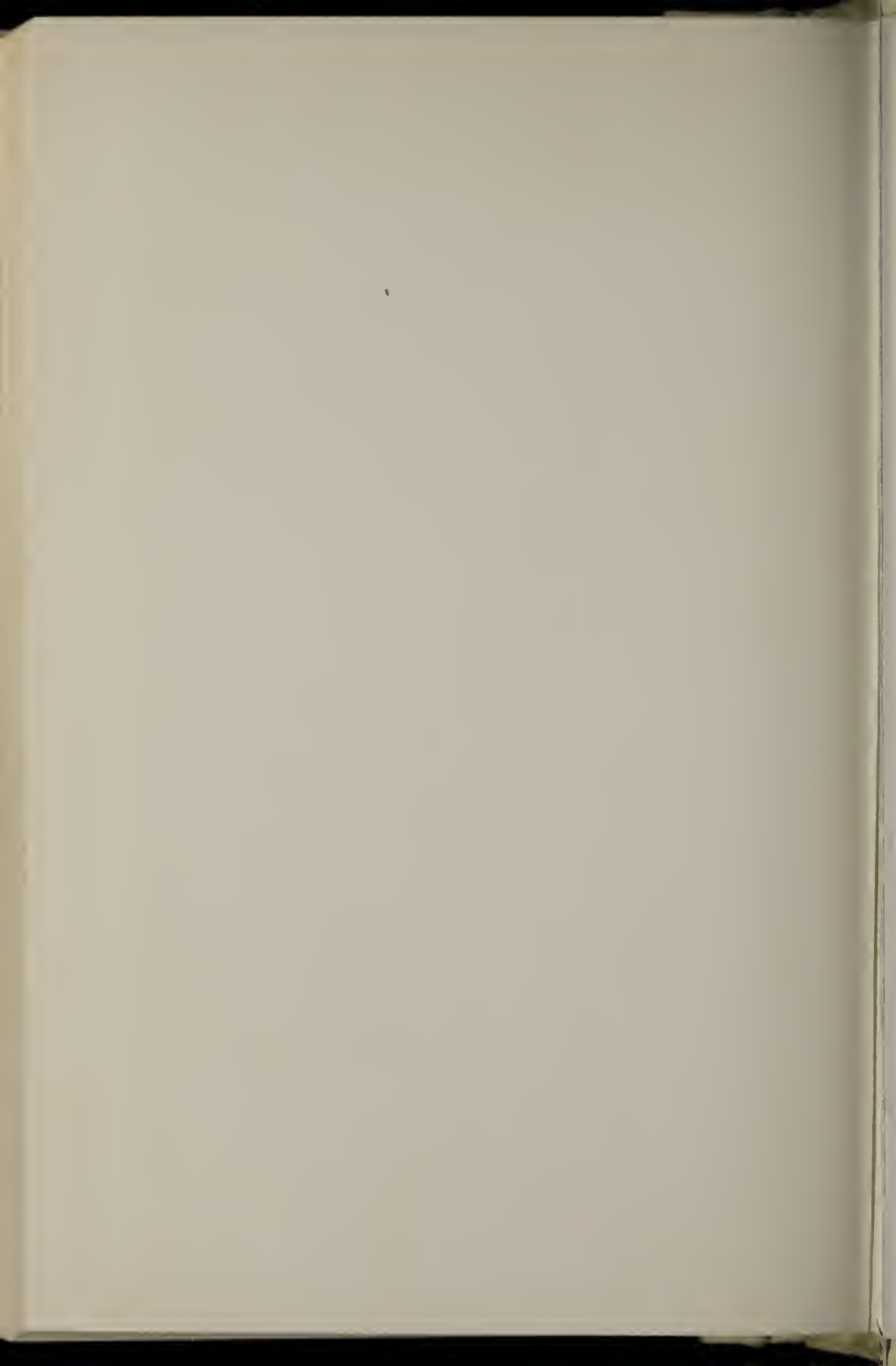


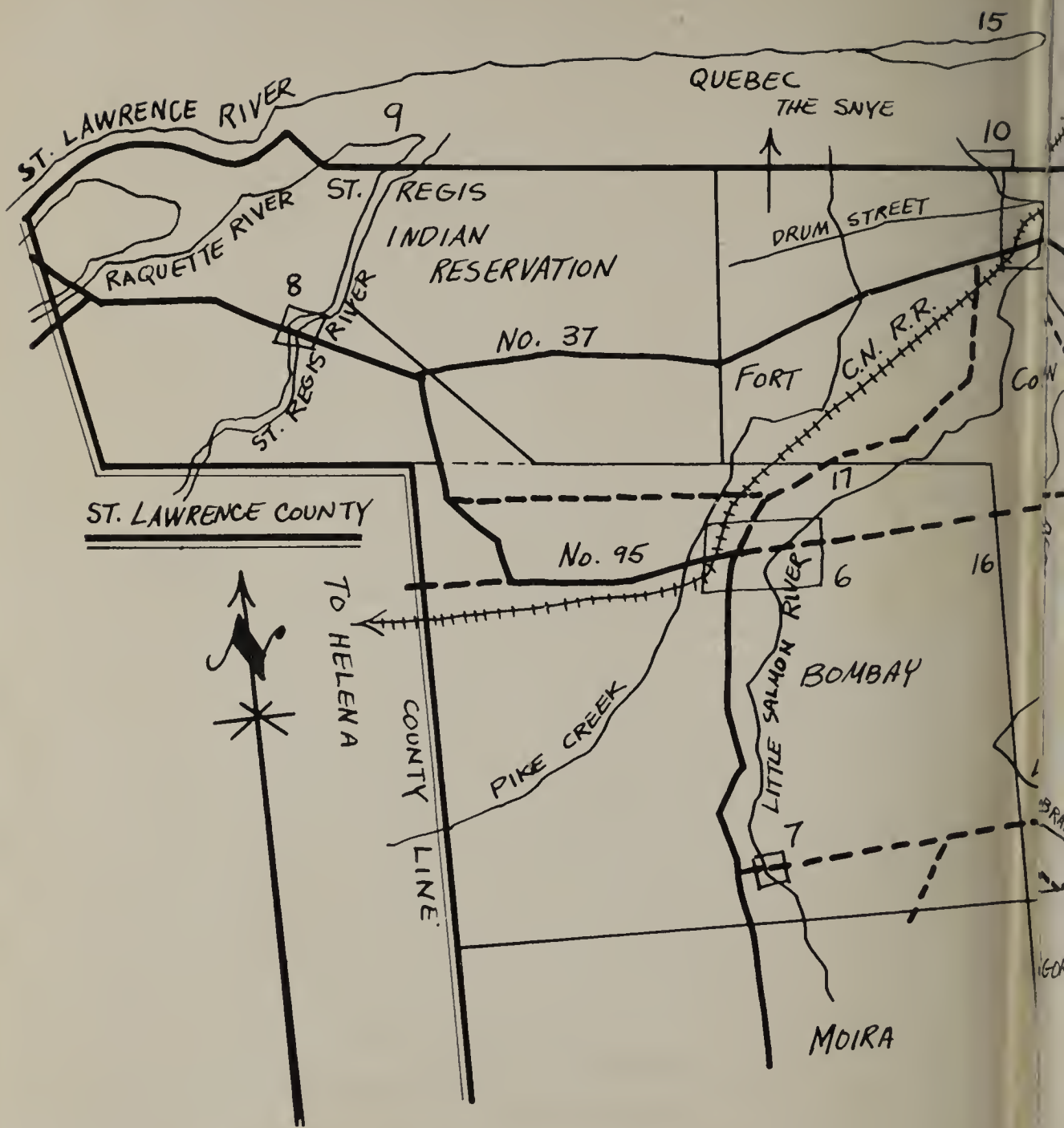
Murphy Hotel, Hogansburg. Photographed in 1961



The Hogle House, Covington Hill



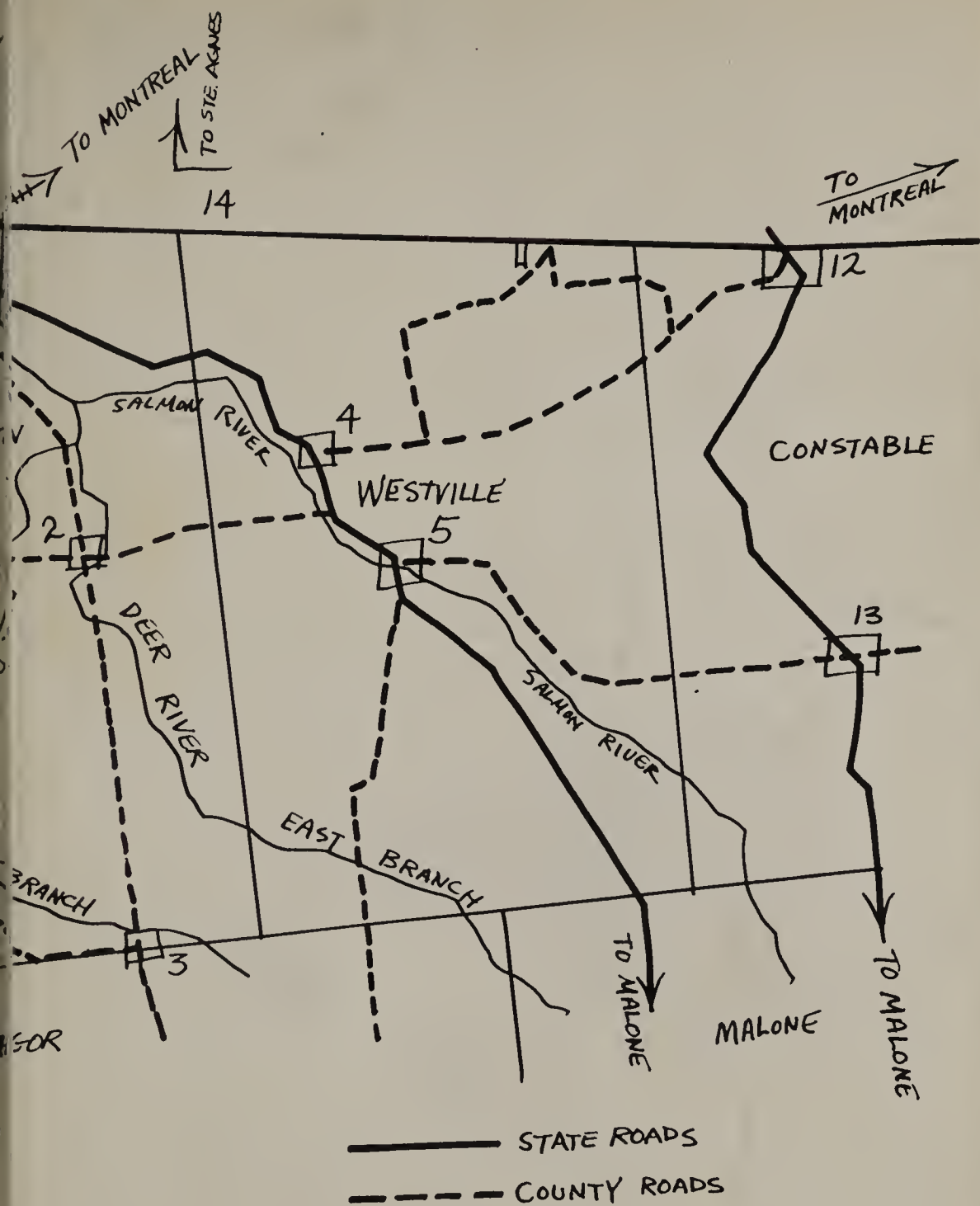




Map of
the towns of
Bombay—Fort Covington—Westville
Franklin County

LEGEND

1. Fort Covington
2. Fort Covington
3. Cooks Corner
4. Westville Cor
5. Westville Cen
6. Bombay
7. South Bomba
8. Hogansburg



9. St. Regis Village
10. Dundee Lines
11. Sulphur Spring
12. Trout River
13. Constable
14. The Beaver, and Fiddler's Elbow
15. Lake St. Francis; Hopkins Point
16. The Irish Ridge
17. Dog Hollow

